

## ROUGH ROAD AHEAD



Iraqi general has a victory under his belt but still predicts difficulty in thwarting Islamic State group

By HAMZA HENDAWI  
AND QASSIM ABUL-ZAHRA  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Lt. Gen. Abdul-Wahab al-Saadi had 225 fighters, a single Abrams tank, a pair of mortars, two artillery pieces and about 40 armored Humvees when he set out to retake a strategic city in northern Iraq captured by Islamic State militants over the summer.

It took 30 days as his force made an agonizingly slow journey for 25 miles through roadside bombs and suicide car attacks, then successfully laid siege to the oil refinery city of Beiji. The campaign earned al-Saadi the biggest battlefield victory by Iraqi forces since Islamic State fighters swept over most of northern and western Iraq in a summer blitz, prompting the collapse of the military.

Yet al-Saadi is deeply pessimistic. In a two-hour interview with The Associated Press, he said Iraq's military lacks weapons, equipment and battle-ready troops and complained that U.S. air support was erratic. Both the military and the government remain riddled with corruption, he said. Most of the senior generals serving when the military fell apart had skills "more suited to World War II," he said.

"If things don't get better," warned the general, "the country could end up divided" between its Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish populations.

The extremists are beatable when confronted with a proper force, he said. But he worries that the military's multiple woes prevent it from doing so. Already, there is a danger the jihadists could retake Beiji, he said.

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“If things don't get better, the country could end up divided.”

Lt. Gen.  
Abdul-Wahab al-Saadi  
Iraqi army

Iraqi security forces deploy in an operation to regain control of the villages surrounding Beiji, Iraq, on Dec. 8.

HADI MIZBAN/AP

## Afghanistan interpreter finds refuge at Marine's home

By BARBARA BROTMAN  
Chicago Tribune

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Every morning, Dinar sits in a folding chair in a second-floor bedroom of a house in this university town and Skypes with his family a world away.

This is likely as close as he will ever be to them again.

Dinar, 30, was an Afghan interpreter for the U.S. Marines in Afghanistan and his service on behalf of the U.S. has cost him dearly.

He was targeted by death threats. He had to cut all visible ties to his family to protect them; for the same reason, he asked that his last name not be used here. And, in the end, he had to leave his country.

He is now starting over in an unfamiliar land. But he is not making the journey alone.

At his back — and often downstairs at breakfast while Dinar is Skyping — is Maj. Christopher Bourbeau, head of the Marine Corps subdivision of the Navy ROTC program at the University of Illinois.

In 2012-13, when Bourbeau was second in command of a Marine unit advising the Afghan national army, Dinar was one of his interpreters.

In gratitude for Dinar's decision to risk his life working with the Marines, Bourbeau has stepped forward to help him build a new one.

When Dinar got a special immigrant visa for Afghans and Iraqis whose service to the U.S. put them in danger in their homelands, Bourbeau volunteered to take him into his home and be his guide to America.

Working with Heartland Alliance, the Chicago resettlement agency that brought Dinar to the U.S., Bourbeau picked up Dinar at O'Hare International Airport on Sept. 17.

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JOHN J. KIM, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS

Marine Maj. Chris Bourbeau, left, and Dinar have lunch in Champaign, Ill.



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IN REVIEW

2014

## TOP MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

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## WAR/MILITARY

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## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Certainly it's very dangerous because a ship with no one on the command bridge is like a bomb that will strike up against the reefs."

— Italian Coast Guard Cmdr. Filippo Marini, about smugglers who abandon migrant-filled ships after setting a course toward shore

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## COMING SOON



### Shifting Gears

A look at 12 cars that are going out of production

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## WORLD

# Obama sanctions N. Korea over hack

3 entities, 10 people affected, though doubt remains over who's responsible

By KEVIN G. HALL  
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration imposed sanctions Friday on three entities and 10 individuals tied to the North Korean government in what it called the first step in a proportional response to the devastating cyberattack on Sony Pictures Entertainment.

In a lengthy call with reporters, several senior administration officials said the entities and people sanctioned under Friday's executive order by President Barack Obama weren't directly involved with the Sony data breach.

But they confirmed that the sanctions, designed to isolate North Korea from the global financial system, are a cyberattack on a U.S. corporation, and they said North Korea was to blame.

The executive order signed by Obama cites — among other things, such as North Korea's nuclear program and human-rights abuses — that nation's "destructive, coercive cyber-related actions during November and December 2014."

The administration alleges that North Korea or people acting on its behalf hacked into Sony's emails and private data to avenge the planned Christmas Day release of "The Interview," a movie comedy about a plot to kill North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un.

Sony initially canceled the film's release after major theater chains balked at showing it following threats to theatergoers, a step Obama criticized at a news conference before starting his holiday vacation in Hawaii two weeks ago. Sony then allowed a smaller number of theaters to show the film and released it widely on the Internet and through on-demand services.

The Obama administration's assertion of a North Korean con-

nection to the Sony hack remains controversial, with some cybersecurity experts saying there's compelling evidence that the break-in was the work of a disgruntled former Sony employee. An official of Norse Corp., a San Mateo, Calif., cybersecurity company, told the Los Angeles Times last week that it believed the hack was an inside job.

Another security expert, Marc Rogers, summed up the sentiment with a widely circulated Dec. 21 blog post in which he concluded that "we don't have any solid evidence that implicates North Korea, while at the same time we don't have enough evidence to rule North Korea out."

**"We don't have any solid evidence that implicates North Korea, while at the same time we don't have enough evidence to rule North Korea out."**

Marc Rogers  
security expert

also believes that it's flimsy based upon the wording of the executive order. It specified sanctions for human rights abuses and threats in the Sony attack almost as an afterthought," Carr said. "This sets a terrible precedent and will open the door to much worse attacks than Sony in the future, because the FBI and the White



WONG MAYE-E/AP

North Koreans gather at the Mansu Hill, where the statues of the late leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il tower over them in Pyongyang.

House didn't wait to discover who was actually responsible."

Administration officials remained adamant that the North Korean government was responsible, and they called the sanctions the "first step in our proportional response."

That's a curious distinction, because the administration was vague when it was asked whether it was behind an Internet outage in North Korea that knocked websites offline. The administration's language Friday implied that the outage was not the first step in a proportional U.S. response.

On Friday, officials neither confirmed nor denied U.S. involvement, adding that there were a number of possible explanations for the outage, including that the North Korean government itself knocked out its Internet capabilities.

The new sanctions came a day after a New Year's Day speech by Kim Jong Un in which he appeared to offer direct talks about unification with South Korea, peppered with blistering hostile rhetoric aimed at the United States. South Korea quickly proposed preparatory talks to explore a summit.

"One way to interpret this is that the North Koreans have finally gotten the message that the road to Washington runs through

Seoul," said Marcus Noland, one of the nation's foremost experts on North Korea and executive vice president of the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

The three entities sanctioned Friday were already under other sanctions tied to rights abuses and North Korea's successful nuclear weapons program. They are the spy agency known as the Reconnaissance General Bureau, the state procurement company Korea Tangun Trading Corp. and the Korea Mining Development Trading Corp., known by its acronym Komid.

Eight of the 10 individuals sanctioned were Komid representatives: one in Russia, two in southern Africa, two in Iran, two in Syria and one who serves as an external affairs officer for Pyongyang. The Treasury Department, implementing the executive order, also targeted a North Korean government official and sanctioned Kim Kwang Chun, a regime official and representative of the trading company in the Chinese city of Shenyang, near the North Korean border.

"In some sense, this is a game of whack-a-mole," said Noland, the North Korea expert. "We go after the North Korean individuals and entities, the North Koreans respond by expanding" the number of front companies.

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## WAR/MILITARY

# Frustrated Afghans wonder: Who's in charge?

## Cabinet delays and Taliban attacks leave public agencies in disarray, residents worried

By PAMELA CONSTABLE  
The Washington Post

KABUL, Afghanistan — As Afghans begin an uncertain new era of coalition governance and self-defense after Taliban insurgents, protracted delays in forming a cabinet and filling most top posts in the 3-month-old administration have left public agencies in disarray and Afghans wondering who is in charge.

This week, as Western combat troops left Afghanistan for good, President Ashraf Ghani hailed a new era of national pride and independence in a televised speech from his palace. He said that the country has "passed two difficult tests" with transitions to a new civilian government and military control and that the next challenge is to build a solid economy.

But Ghani said he is seeing about the high-level vacancies in the government he heads in partnership with his former rival, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, an issue that has left the nation in a state of anxiety and the wheels of the nascent national unity government wobbling. Most senior federal and provincial posts are empty and many parents are on hold, leaving a growing impression that no one is at the helm just as the country needs a strong leadership team to fend off a resurgent Taliban and grapple with corruption.

In one province, police officials have been fired and not replaced despite a rash of violent crimes. In another, frustrated parents are calling their legislators to get copies of school records. In the capital, no phones were answered at one federal ministry last week, an unusual occurrence even by lax Afghan standards. In another ministry, idle office workers made a video of one another dancing in the halls, which was later shown to a reporter.

"Everything is stuck. There is no framework, no direction, no one setting priorities or making decisions," said Fawzia Koofi, one of many national legislators who have expressed similar concerns. "In a country like ours with a weak political system, you need strong ministers and governors to provide leadership, but we still don't have any. So those below are either doing nothing or they are using the chance to do wrong things."

Public concern over the lack of appointed leaders, especially in the Defense Ministry and other security agencies, has been exacerbated by a spate of recent insurgent attacks across the capital in which militants bombed or opened fire on foreign compounds, police facilities and even a live theater performance.

But Ghani and several security aides who spoke at the palace ceremony this week stressed the government's determination and capacity to confront Afghanistan's enemies without continued foreign combat support.

Ghani and his advisers have continued to ask for patience after failing to meet several previous deadlines to form a cabinet. Last week, the president met with a group of legislators and promised to announce the first group of nominees by next week, but several parliamentary leaders said they were so fed up that they might refuse to ratify his choices.

Palace aides say the appointment process has been delayed by conflicting demands for professional competence, ethnic balance and political repairs, as Ghani and Abdullah have divided key agencies and negotiated over candidates.

By all accounts, the crucial pending decision in this Rubik's Cube of interlocking scenarios and deals who will head the Interior Ministry, a powerful ethnic faction awash in weapons and riddled with graft.

**Everything is stuck. There is no framework, no direction, no one setting priorities or making decisions. Fawzia Koofi**

**Fawzia Koofi**  
member of Afghanistan Parliament

Ghani and Abdullah are believed to have agreed on most other ministries, but both leaders face continued pressure from their respective allies to appoint different individuals to the high-stakes post.

Meanwhile, the stalemate has affected services and morale at numerous other public agencies, some of which have been adrift for much of the past year because of the prolonged presidential campaign and election. Legislators, analysts and former officials say routine bureaucratic functions are being neglected, "acting" ministers are reluctant to sign orders, lower-level jobs are going unfilled and projects are stalled.

Some Afghans who supported Ghani's presidential bid and reformist agenda said the delays have resulted in part from excessively strict conditions he placed on all senior jobs. By banning former ministers, parliamentarians and dual nationals from heading agencies, they said, he cut out many members of the country's small professional elite.

One former cabinet minister, who was dismissed by Ghani in November along with all other ministers, blamed the paralysis on a different problem: the political conflict inherent in what he called the "two-headed" government that was brokered by U.S. officials after last year's elections — which included a runoff between Ghani and Abdullah — collapsed amid charges of fraud.

"The problem is not technical deficiency, it is the lack of political will," said the ex-minister, who spoke on the condition of anonymity so he could talk frankly. "In my ministry, there are two or three people from both the Ghani and Abdullah camps who are well qualified to take over my job. We are responsible for many thousands of employees and a huge budget. There is no reason this should be taking so long."

The independent Afghan Anti-Corruption Network warned recently that the ongoing delay in cabinet appointments has "created gaps of power and legitimacy within the government and has given ... opportunity to corrupt officials to loot Afghans and Afghanistan."

Yet the president's eagerness to wipe out corruption and incompetence — a key part of his campaign platform — has also led to criticism that his actions are backfiring. Last week, during a trip to the far western province of Herat, Ghani abruptly dismissed a number of officials including all 15 district police chiefs after hearing complaints of malfeasance and poor performance. But he did not replace any of them, even though the area has been suffering a rash of murders and kidnappings.

Outside the halls of power, the delays have had a negative ripple effect on jobs and businesses in an ailing economy with a small private sector, where public contracts, projects, jobs and bureaucratic connections are the keys to economic survival for thousands of Afghans.

"I voted for Dr. Ghani because everyone said he had the best brains and would be good for our country's future," said a furniture maker, 27, who gave his name as Zabiullah. "But his government hasn't brought any new business, only new taxes on our shops. I regret that I voted for him now, and so do a lot of the Afghan people."

## 2 Afghan soldiers arrested in fatal attack on wedding

The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Two Afghan soldiers have been arrested in connection with the deaths of at least 28 people, mostly women and children, who were killed by artillery fired from military checkpoints at a wedding party, an official said Friday.

Gen. Sultan Mahmoud, the head of the army in southern Helmand province, where the incident took place on Wednesday night, said the soldiers were arrested late on Friday. Another eight soldiers were still under investigation, he told The Associated Press.

"There is still a possibility of more arrests because the investigation is not over yet but those who were directly involved have been arrested today," he said.

Investigators sent from Kabul by the Defense Ministry arrived in Helmand's capital of Lashkar Gah earlier in the day, Gen. Dawlat Waziri, deputy Defense Ministry spokesman, said.

An initial probe found soldiers had fired at a house from two directions while the wedding party was in full swing in the volatile district of Sangin, in the poppy-

producing Helmand River valley. Officials in the province earlier said that the artillery fire wounded at least 51 people at the house in the Sarwankhala area of Sangin, where government forces and Taliban insurgents have fought skirmishes for the last six months since U.S. forces withdrew.

Mahmoud said all soldiers in the area at the time of the incident had been confined to their base until the investigation concludes.

About 300 people travelled from Sangin to the provincial capital of Helmand, 52 miles away to protest outside the home of the governor and demand justice for the dead.

The incident happened just hours before Afghanistan's own forces took control Thursday of nationwide security after the end of the 13-year international combat mission led by the United States and NATO.

Earlier Friday in Lashkar Gah three employees of the private Azizi Bank and a policeman were killed when a roadside bomb exploded beneath a bank vehicle, said Omar Zwak, the spokesman for the provincial governor.



Injured Afghan children are treated at a hospital in Helmand province, Afghanistan, on Wednesday. A rocket fired amid fighting between Taliban insurgents and Afghan soldiers, killing at least 28 people at a nearby wedding party, authorities said.

PHOTOS BY ABDUL KHALIQ/AP



## WAR/MILITARY

# Interpreter: Marine's family offers loyal ally of US an open invitation to live in their home

## FROM FRONT PAGE

He drove Dinar to Champaign, where he and his wife, Katie, set up Dinar in a bedroom in their home in a quiet neighborhood.

Bourbeau helped Dinar through the paperwork of applying for a Social Security card and for temporary government assistance. He took him to the secretary of state's facility to start the process of getting a driver's license.

He bought Dinar \$900 worth of clothes for job interviews — a suit, shirts and a tie, socks and dress shoes. He is trying to help Dinar get a civil service job at the university, which would offer educational benefits that could lead to an American college degree.

## Repaying a debt

Bourbeau sees his actions as paying back a debt.

"He's done more for this country than a lot of people that live in this country," he said. "He's as much a Marine as I am."

Dinar sees Bourbeau's help as a crucial introduction to a new life.

"To find a person that guides you in a country where you know nobody ... that was quite helpful," he said.

The Bourbeaus are teaching him how to live in America, he said.

"They help me out about culture and people and society," he said. "They're, right now, everyone to me."

It is not uncommon for U.S. military personnel to step forward to help their former interpreters in some way when they come to this country, said Darwens Clark, associate director of refugee family services at Heartland Alliance. About 30 percent of holders of special immigrant visas move into the house or the community of someone they knew in the U.S. military, he said.

But most people aren't able to take refugees into their homes and commit the substantial amount of time involved in resettling them.

"I find it so admirable that Chris is able to make that sacrifice," Clark said. "Immediately when I called him, it was very clear that ... he was going to be responsible for anything that was necessary or anything that was asked of him. And that is very rare."

Indeed, Bourbeau's offer was unconditional.

"It's a completely open-ended invitation, without any stipulations

whatever — whatever it takes to help him to get on his feet," Bourbeau said. "I'm prepared that he could live with us for years."

## A top interpreter

Dinar spent five years with the Marines, working, eating and living with them in his role as interpreter with the U.S.-led coalition.

He believed in its mission, he said. His father, an engineer for a software company in Germany, was killed by the Taliban on one of his visits home, Dinar said. The family, including Dinar, fled to Pakistan.

When Dinar returned to Kabul 11 years later, he found it much improved by the coalition forces. "Females were going to school; people could live normally," he said. "So I wanted to be part of the changes."

Raised in a well-educated family — his mother is a university professor — Dinar spoke seven languages, had completed teacher training and a culture and linguistics program at the Pakistan American Cultural Center, and had taught English to Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

He became one of the Marines' top interpreters.

"His linguistic capabilities and 24/7 attitude proved to be one of the underlying factors leading to Afghan national security forces' development in Helmand province," wrote a commanding officer in 2010.

"Dinar was one of the best that I've seen," as well as one of the bravest, said Bourbeau, an attack-helicopter pilot who did five tours of duty in direct support



PHOTOS BY JOHN J. KIM, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS

**U.S. Marine Maj. Chris Bourbeau, left, and Dinar attempt to skate on hockey sleds after watching a sled hockey exhibition game at the University of Illinois Ice Arena on Dec. 6 in Champaign.**

of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He routinely volunteered for dangerous missions "outside the wire," as going off base is called, Bourbeau said.

"A lot of [interpreters] didn't want to do it. They were afraid. They didn't want to get hurt or killed," he said. "Dinar was always willing to go."

Bourbeau and Dinar rode together in armored vehicles along roads studded with improvised explosive devices. Dinar was Bourbeau's interpreter in his conversations with Afghan commanders, when Bourbeau monitored Afghan army battle operations and when he sat on the

**"They help me out about culture and people and society. They're, right now, everyone to me."**

**Dinar**

Afghan interpreter for the U.S. Marines

ground in tribal villages drinking tea with elders.

He translated more than just the languages.

"He was responsible for reading the emotions and the situation of whoever we were meeting with," Bourbeau said. "We put a lot of trust in him."

The work put Dinar in grave danger.

## A Taliban target

The Taliban target interpreters working for the U.S., said Becca Heller, director of the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project, which resettles Afghan and Iraqi interpreters.

"We have numerous clients who have been shot, kidnapped and tortured," she wrote in an email. "A number of clients have had a parent or relative killed in retaliation for their work with the U.S. We have female clients who have been threatened with rape."

And Dinar was highly visible. He was often called upon to work for visiting dignitaries, including then-Secretary of Defense Leon

Panetta. Photos and videos of him with Panetta and other American officials were widely disseminated in news media.

"I was exposed," he said.

He got death threats in letters tossed over the base fence overnight — the much-feared "night letters" in which the Taliban mark someone they considered a traitor.

"At that point, I decided there's no more future in Afghanistan. I must leave," he said.

A U.S. commander started a special immigrant visa application for Dinar as soon as he started working as an interpreter, but Dinar had not taken the prospect seriously. Now, however, he initiated another application and pursued it with rigor.

Marine commanders gave their support. One wrote a letter describing how Dinar was in his vehicle when it was hit by a 200-pound IED and despite sustaining some injuries, helped the Marines recover the vehicle and stayed to complete the dangerous mission.

**SEE INTERPRETER ON PAGE 5**



**Dinar displays coins he was awarded for his service in Afghanistan.**

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## WAR/MILITARY



PHOTOS BY JOHN J. KIM, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS

Dinar points to photographs of him interpreting for U.S. military officers in Afghanistan.

## Interpreter: Mutual respect, admiration the basis of two men's ongoing friendship

FROM PAGE 4

Bourbeau added his voice: "I have been witness to ongoing death threats directed at Dinar and his family," he wrote. "We as a nation and a U.S. Military owe a debt of gratitude to Dinar and must take responsibility for the current dire situation he now faces."

Five years after filing the first application, Dinar's visa was approved.

Meanwhile, Bourbeau began to consider doing more to help.

"I just felt like Dinar was very trustworthy. He was hardworking. His values are very similar to my values," he said in an interview. "I wouldn't have any issue doing everything I could to help him out."

Bourbeau didn't make the decision lightly. He talked it over with Katie, a former Marine who now works as a project manager.

"I met Dinar on FaceTime," she said. "The next day, Chris said, 'I'm thinking of asking him to live with us.'"

She agreed.

"How do you say no to giving someone a chance?" she said.

Dinar arrived at their home with a backpack, one bag — and a new name.

Because the way names are written on Afghan passports does not match U.S. consular guidelines, many visa holders find that their visas turn their first names into their last names and omit their real last names.

Dinar's first name, like that of a number of other interpreters, is, officially anyway, Fnu — for First Name Unknown.

### Making the adjustment

There have been other bumps in the road. On his first full day in America, Dinar boarded a bus near the Bourbeaus' home and ended up at a terminal where he told a clerk he wanted to go downtown, meaning Champaign.

He was put on a bus to Chicago, instead.

"I was like, 'Man, I'm the worst sponsor on earth. I've lost my immigrant in one day,'" Bourbeau said.

Dinar, who did not yet have a cellphone, simply waited for three hours for the next bus back to Champaign.

In an effort to acclimate him culturally, the Bourbeaus take Dinar to sporting events and shows. On one of his first nights in America, they took him to see a Led Zeppelin tribute band.

"It was absolute sensory over-

load," Chris Bourbeau grinned.

"It was good, sir," said Dinar, whose speech is still peppered with Marine formalities.

"It was not good," said Katie, rolling her eyes.

Dinar and the Bourbeaus have settled into a warm friendship. Chris Bourbeau's high-energy social ease counters Dinar's quiet reserve. Katie Bourbeau's affection has led her to cook Dinar an Afghan meal, which Dinar praised.

From the day he came here, he was just amazing," she said. "He's just such a gentle soul — very chivalrous and kind. I haven't met a gentleman like that since I lived in the South."

"Dinar's been nothing but a great addition to the household," Chris Bourbeau said.

Dinar returns the affection, and adds gratitude. Still, he grieves what he has lost.

They include his planned marriage. When his fiancée's family found out Dinar was an interpreter, he said, they told him it was too dangerous for her to marry him and returned the engagement ring.

He has nieces and nephews he has never met. His mother is relieved that he is safe, but on the phone one recent morning, she was crying.

"She said, 'I didn't know you would be disappearing, to be a vampire,'" he said.

Still, he has no regrets. The coalition he served brought stability to his country, he said. And he is



U.S. Marine Major Chris Bourbeau, right, looks on as Dinar describes a rug depicting a map of Afghanistan.

safe.

"I can sleep well," he said. "If I get lost at night, I'm not worried that someone is going to kill me."

Most people who encounter Dinar with the Bourbeaus know little about the quiet man in the Marines sweatshirt. But a few find out.

At a recent sled hockey exhibition game at the university — where Dinar broke into uncharacteristic laughter as he and Chris strapped themselves into sleds used in the paralympic sport

and alternately raced and fell onto their sides — they ended up talking with Patrick Byrne, who helps coach the RIC Blackhawks and who played on this day.

Bourbeau told Byrne what Dinar had done for the U.S. and how he had come here for sanctuary.

They sat on their sleds on the ice, and Byrne listened, looking at Dinar.

"Welcome to the United States," he said. "And thank you."

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# WAR ON TERRORISM

## General: Iraq military has a tenuous hold on key city

### FROM FRONT PAGE

A Baghdad-born Shiite with family roots in southern Iraq, al-Saadi complained of "excesses" by some of the Shiite volunteers who joined the fight against the Sunni militants and on whom the military has come to rely.

"I am a military man, and they don't respect the rules by which we operate," he said. Volunteers, for example, looted homes in government-controlled areas around the Sunni city of Tikrit and tried to intimidate army officers, he said. During his march toward Beiji, some of the volunteers whom he deployed as a rear guard left their posts.

The government and its media consistently praise the volunteers' role in the war against the Sunni militants.

The U.S.-trained al-Saadi, who is second-in-command of the army's elite counterterrorism forces, spoke at his office in one of Saddam Hussein's Baghdad palaces. The chain-smoking general wore a baseball cap and green sweater — the same outfit he wears on the front lines, without helmet or body armor or indications of his rank. In the Beiji campaign, he was wounded by shrapnel in his arm and dangerously close to his eye, on top of wounds he suffered last summer in the western province of Anbar.

On his office walls hung photos of himself with former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. Al-Saadi said he had a close relationship with al-Maliki during his eight years in office. But the Shiite leader, he said, bears the "moral responsibility" for the debacle against the Islamic State group.

Al-Maliki stepped down in August, replaced by Haider al-Abadi, who has sought to draw Sunni support against the militants. According to al-Saadi, al-Abadi has largely left the military to run the war against the Islamic State as it seizes fit. Al-Abadi has also shaken up the military, pushing aside dozens of corrupt or inefficient officers. He has also stopped payments of millions of dollars in salaries disbursed to thousands of nonexistent troops, or "ghost soldiers."

Al-Saadi is the head of military operations in Salahuddin province, where Beiji is located, and his troops were stationed in a base outside Tikrit. The Islamic State group holds Tikrit itself and most of the surrounding ground.

A veteran of Iraq's 1980-88 war against Shiite Iran, al-Saadi said he turned down offers of help from Iranian military advisers in retaking Beiji. Iran has been closely helping Iraq's government in the fight against the extremists.

"If I had accepted help from non-Iraqis, the history books will say the victory was not ours, the Iraqis," he said.

He had troubles from the outset



**Lt. Gen. Abdul-Wahab al-Saadi led his troops on a long, slow slog through roadside bombs and suicide car attacks, to successfully recapture Beiji.**

with top military leaders in Baghdad who wanted Beiji retaken quickly.

"I told them I can reach Beiji from Tikrit in three days, but I will lose many of my men," he said. "(I) told them I will do it my way and get Beiji back. They were unhappy, but they had no choice."

Setting out from Tikrit in mid-October, al-Saadi advanced slowly, abandoning the main road he knew to be infested with roadside bombs. Instead, he and his men went by foot through the desert parallel to the road.

Each day, they walked several kilometers, stopped and built a sand barrier on the main road to fend off suicide car bombers, while engineers would clear roadside bombs. Once the road was cleared, the Humvees and lone tank would proceed up to the barrier where they would wait until another stretch of the road was cleared, he said.

The top brass in Baghdad called him repeatedly on his cellphone to complain he was moving too slowly. "I told them again and again that I need to move cautiously to protect my men," he said — though he added that al-Abadi called him to express support.

It took three weeks to reach



PHOTOS BY HADI MIZBAN/AP

**Iraqi security forces deploy to regain control of the villages around Beiji last month. Lt. Gen. Abdul-Wahab al-Saadi had limited personnel and equipment when he set out to retake Beiji, a strategic city in northern Iraq captured by Islamic State militants over the summer.**

Beiji, fighting the whole way, then another week to take the town. All in all, more than two dozen suicide car bombs were hurled at them. He said logistical bottlenecks in the military left him with only one earth-mover to construct sand barriers, which broke down often or had its tires shot out by snipers.

He blames one of its breakdowns for the death of police Lt. Gen. Faisal Malik al-Zamel during the fight in Beiji. With no sand barrier, a suicide attacker in an explosives-packed truck — its tires and windshield protected by plates of armor — struck while al-Zamel stood in the open speaking on his telephone on Nov. 7.

"His men shouted for him to get back inside his armored vehicle but he didn't act fast enough," said al-Saadi, who was at the scene.

Al-Saadi was also left skeptical that the Americans are serious in helping Iraq defeat the extremists with the coalition air campaign.

"Sometimes, they would carry out airstrikes that I never asked for, and at other times I begged them for a single airstrike and they never did it," citing logistical issues or orders from higher up, he said.

"I don't think they trust Iraq's government or military."

Also, al-Saadi's only means of communication with Baghdad was a mobile phone and whenever it had no signal he could not call in airstrikes.

In the end, his strategy paid



**Iraqi security forces take part in a mission to regain control of the villages around Beiji last month.**

off. Beiji was recaptured in mid-November, and the entire campaign cost 12 lives and about 30 injured among his troops. On the other side, he estimates his forces killed around 1,500 Islamic State fighters.

Brig. Gen. Ayad al-Leheibi, of the police's Rapid Deployment Force, echoed that estimate and confirmed most of the details in al-Saadi's account. Al-Leheibi and about 120 of his men fought alongside al-Saadi in the Beiji campaign.

Now al-Saadi worries the victory is in danger of being reversed.

Already Islamic State militants are back on the outskirts of Beiji, and he said the men left to hold the city are too few.

One unit of reinforcements was attacked on the way to Beiji and quickly retreated, he said. A second one, 50-men strong, made it to the city but came under night attack by militants.

"There was so much confusion and panic, they started shooting at each other in the dark," he said.

"We lost 10 men, nearly as many as we lost in the entire campaign."

## WAR ON TERRORISM

# Militants kidnap dozens in Iraq

BY SINAN SALAHEDDIN  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Militants linked to the Islamic State group have rounded up dozens of men from two villages in northern Iraq following a quarrel that led to the burning of the extremist group's flag, tribal leaders said on Saturday.

The latest move by the Sunni extremist militants came as the United Nations said that last year saw the highest casualty figures in Iraq in over five years.

Two sheiks said the militants entered a mosque in the village of al-Shajara on Friday as worshippers gathered for prayers, removing flags commemorating the birth of Prophet Muhammad and hoisting their own black Islamic State group flag.

That prompted a verbal quarrel between the militants and the worshippers, who later burned the Islamic State group flag. The militants then snatched up around 140 men from their homes in al-Shajara and from the nearby village of al-Ghariba, both about 44 miles outside the northern city of Kirkuk.

About 100 of the men were later released, while the rest remained in captivity, the sheiks said on condition of anonymity, fearing for their own safety.

The Islamic State group controls about a third of both Iraq and neighboring Syria, where it has declared an Islamic caliphate and imposed a violent form of Shariah law.

In its monthly release issued on Friday, the U.N. Assistance Mission in Iraq said a total of 12,282 Iraqis were killed and another 23,126 injured in violence in 2014, making it the bloodiest year since 2006-07.

The violence has spiked as the Islamic State group's advances have sparked renewed sectarian tensions between Sunni and Shiite Muslims. The latest incident took place Thursday in the mostly Shiite southern city of Basra, where gunmen shot dead three Sunni clerics.

In a symbolic gesture of unity between Iraqis, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi paid a visit on Friday to the hallowed Abu Hanifa Sunni mosque in Baghdad's northern Azamiya neighborhood, and to the adjacent Shiite shrine of Imam Mousa al-Kazim, a revered 8th-century saint, during commemorations of Prophet Muhammad's birthday.



RAAD ADAYLA/AP

Safi Yousef al-Kaseasbeh, the father of Jordanian pilot 1st Lt. Mu'ath al-Kaseasbeh, speaks on his mobile phone while standing by a poster of his son during a family gathering in Karak, south of Amman, Jordan, on Saturday.

## Pilot's father: Treat him as a guest

BY OMAR AKOUR  
The Associated Press

Amman, Jordan — The father of the Jordanian pilot captured by the Islamic State group appealed Saturday to the militants to treat his son well and with respect.

The pilot, 1st Lt. Mu'ath al-Kaseasbeh, 26, was taken captive on Dec. 24 after his F-16 fighter jet crashed near the extremists' de facto capital of Raqqa in northern Syria. He is the first known foreign military pilot to fall into the militants' hands since the U.S.-led international coalition began its

aerial campaign against the Islamic State group in September.

Speaking to reporters from his home village of Aili in central Jordan, the pilot's father, Safi Yousef al-Kaseasbeh, said Saturday that he is "confident" that his son is "in safe hands in a place where he is respected."

"I want to tell our brothers in the Islamic State that Mu'ath is your son same as he is our son," al-Kaseasbeh said. "My message to them on this day, the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, is that they treat him in a good way, and to treat him as a guest."

The younger al-Kaseasbeh was carrying out airstrikes against the militants when his warplane went down.

In its monthly magazine, the Islamic State group published what it said was an interview with al-Kaseasbeh in which the pilot says he was shot down by a heat-seeking missile.

That version contradicts statements from the United States, which has denied that the militants downed the Jordanian's aircraft. The head of the U.S. military's Central Command, Gen. Lloyd Austin, said the U.S.

will not tolerate the militants' "attempts to misrepresent or exploit this unfortunate aircraft crash for their own purposes."

Other than the purported interview, there has been no word on al-Kaseasbeh or his fate.

The Islamic State group follows an extremist version of Islam that considers rivals, even some fellow Sunni Muslims, as apostates, and the group has executed captured Iraqi and Syrian Muslim soldiers in the past. Still, the group may want to negotiate a prisoner swap or other concessions from Jordan.

## Civilian casualty count increases dramatically

BY SWATI SHARMA  
The Washington Post

Violence in Iraq resulted in more than 35,000 civilian casualties in the past year, making 2014 the bloodiest year in Iraq since the 2006-07 sectarian tensions after the U.S.-led invasion.

While the United Nations figures report 12,282 civilian deaths in Iraq, the Iraq Body Count, a nonprofit that tracks violence in Iraq, reported civilian deaths roughly doubled from 2013 to 2014.

In February, a little-known fringe group of al-Qaida overtook Fallujah, a key Iraqi city in Anbar province. Months after, the Islamic State group, then known as ISIS, captured Mosul, the

second-largest city in Iraq. That event flared tensions around the country and led to the deadliest month last year, in which more than 3,200 civilians died or were injured.

The Islamic State has been listed as the group that has killed the most people in the past year, more than Boko Haram, the Taliban and al-Shabab, according to a report conducted by the BBC World Service and King's College London. The report also stated that Iraq was the worst-affected country hit by jihadist attacks.

The militant group doesn't alone hold the blame for the steep death toll. It made significant inroads into Iraq partially because

of the incompetence and myopia of the politicians in Baghdad. Former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who was more or less hand-picked by the United States, presided over a deeply sectarian government which favored the country's Shiites at the expense of the minority Sunnis.

A newly formed government, led by a more conciliatory prime minister, is struggling to patch up divisions and build a more inclusive society. But much damage has already been done, as indicated by a recent U.N. video citing the humanitarian crisis there. Far away from the political wrangling, there are hundreds of thousands still lacking food and shelter as the winter cold sets in.

The Islamic State group con-

ducted massacres in both Iraq and Syria throughout the year. One of the most notorious was in Mosul, where 670 prisoners were killed after they were ordered to line up, kneel down and then were met with open fire.

Another mass killing that followed was to the south of Mosul in Camp Speicher, where 650 to 770 men were slain. The militant group posted graphic images of the killings on social media.

Along with a steep rise in casualties, more than 2 million Iraqis were forced to flee from their homes in the last year.

The last time close to these many Iraqis were uprooted from their homes was from 2006 to 2008, which led to about 1.7 million displaced people.



NATION

# New year, new leadership in Congress

The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — Republican senators poised to lead major committees when the GOP takes charge are intent on pushing back many of President Barack Obama's policies, setting up potential showdowns over environmental rules, financial regulations and national security.

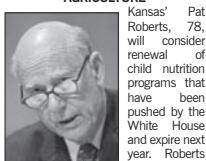
The all-GOP Congress — Republicans also have a commanding majority in the House — gives the powerful Senate committee heads a newfound opportunity to steer legislation and help shape the national debate.

With Republicans winning control of the Senate in the November election, all the committees will get new leaders, though all have been around for years.

The heads of the 13 major committees and Veterans' Affairs are some of the most senior members of the Senate. Three are octogenarians and four are in their late 70s. Only one new leader will be a woman; Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski is in line to take over the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

A look at the powerful senators and their issues:

## AGRICULTURE



Roberts

Kansas' Pat Roberts, 73, will consider renewal of child nutrition programs that have been pushed by the White House and expire next year. Roberts has criticized efforts to make school lunches healthier for financial reasons. Roberts has been a recent dissenter on the normally bipartisan panel, voting against the five-year farm bill that Congress passed in May. Like his Republican counterparts in the House, Roberts has championed cutting back spending for food stamps.

tion policy is certain. The Pentagon can largely forget about scrapping the A-10 Warthog aircraft, which McCain heavily favors, and can expect close scrutiny of the costly F-35 fighter jet.

## BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS



Shelley

known as Dodd-Frank. The 2010 law that brought stricter regulation of banks and Wall Street has been a bummer in the side of Republican lawmakers, and the GOP-controlled House has passed numerous bills to unwind it. Besides bank rules, the committee under the Alabama senator also may focus on curbing the authority of the Consumer Protection Financial Bureau over auto lenders and credit card companies. The bureau was created by the financial law. Also likely to get committee attention is legislation to reshape the housing finance system and wind down mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

## APPROPRIATIONS



Cochran

The gavel of the powerful panel responsible for drafting approximately one-third of the federal budget will return to Mississippi's Thad Cochran, who turned 77 in December and was just re-elected to a seventh term. Cochran was in charge during the last two years of the previous GOP majority and was a driving force behind more than \$100 billion in funding to help Gulf Coast states recover from Hurricane Katrina. He was also a big practitioner of earmarks, those home-state goodies. GOP leaders have banned earmarking, but Cochran is sure to back Navy shipbuilding efforts, to the benefit of his state. Republicans are expected to use the 12 spending bills to challenge Obama on policy issues, such as health care, financial services, immigration and the environment.

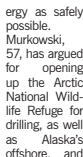
## ARMED SERVICES



McCain

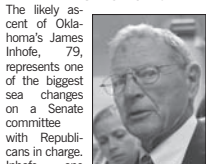
Leading the committee has been a long-sought goal for John McCain, 78, of Arizona, the former Navy pilot, Vietnam prisoner of war and two-time presidential candidate who lost to Obama in 2008. McCain, who has hinted he might seek a sixth term in 2016, stands as one of Obama's fiercest critics on national security, casting the administration as weak and ineffective in countering threats overseas. McCain has been critical of Pentagon contracting, increased examination of defense manufacturers and acqui-

erty as safety possible. Murkowski, 57, has argued for opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for drilling, as well as Alaska's offshore, and has opposed regulations that block energy production. She believes EPA regulations to curb coal-fired power plant pollution to deal with global warming will threaten the reliability and raise the costs of electricity. She supports exporting U.S. natural gas and has led the charge on pressuring the administration to lift restrictions on exports of crude oil. She has kept the immediate approval of the Keystone XL oil pipeline. Murkowski, unlike others in the GOP, believes global warming is happening and that Alaskans are already experiencing the effects.



Murkowski

## ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS



Inhofe

The likely ascent of Oklahoma's James Inhofe, 79, represents one of the biggest sea changes on a Senate committee with Republicans in charge. Inhofe, one of Congress' most vocal deniers of the scientific consensus of climate change, wrote in a 2012 book that global warming was "a hoax." He will replace Californian Barbara Boxer, who introduced climate change legislation in 2009 and was an ally of the environmental community and Obama.

## FINANCE

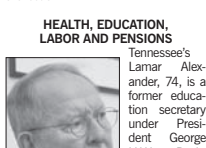
The 2010 health care law is in the GOP's crosshairs, and Utah's Orrin Hatch, 80, is likely to use his position to take the first step at chipping away at it. Hatch has called the law's tax on medical devices "stupid" and is determined to roll it back. He is likely to gain some Democratic support for the effort. Hatch could be a free-trade ally for Obama if the president pushes more trade agreements.

Overhauling the nation's complicated tax laws also is a priority for Hatch. But it's a heavy lift that will require a level of bipartisanship not seen in Congress in recent years. Hatch has worked with Democrats in the past, his friendship with the late Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachu-

setts is legendary.

## FOREIGN RELATIONS

Tennessee's Bob Corker, 62, has criticized Obama's foreign policy as tepid in dealing with Russia, Libya and Syria. Like several other Republicans on the committee, Corker has deep reservations about the administration's negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program. Some Republicans have said the GOP will push new penalties this month that target Tehran.



Alexander

Secretary of State John Kerry has asked Congress for new war powers in the fight against the Islamic State group. Corker has raised the possibility that he could work with the administration on the issue.

## HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS



A lawyer by trade, he helped form a corporate childcare company in the private sector. Alexander said he wants to fix President George W. Bush's No Child Left Behind education law that's been due to be renewed since 2007 and update the Higher Education Act. He's called the health care law a "historic mistake" and supports repealing it. He's also said modernizing the National Institutes of Health and Food and Drug Administration is a necessity, and he is seeking to examine the FDA's process for drug and device review.

## JUDICIARY



Grassley

A farmer, not an attorney, Iowa's Charles Grassley, 81, has been on the Judiciary Committee since his 1980 election to the Senate. But this will be his first stint as its chairman. In that post, many expect him to continue his long-running interest in protecting whistle-blowers. He's also expected to continue oversight of programs like the Justice Department's bungled "Fast and Furious" operation, under which federal agents lost control of guns they were tracing to Mexican drug lords. Many also expect him to work on legislation easing federal regulations on businesses.

illegally. He's also pressed for more information about the National Security Agency's ability to gather information on Americans.

A decade ago, Grassley spent time as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and played a role in winning approval of President George W. Bush's 2001 tax cuts and the 2003 addition of prescription drug benefits to Medicare.

## HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS



Johnson

Wisconsin's Ron Johnson, 59, has been a tough questioner of administration officials about the deadly 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic outpost in Benghazi, Libya. The question will be whether the panel's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigation opens another Benghazi inquiry as well as other reviews of the Democratic administration. Under the leadership of Delaware Democrat Tom Carper, the committee focused primarily on the internal workings of the sprawling Homeland Security Department, including low morale ratings from rank-and-file employees and contracting issues. Johnson has focused on those rankings in the past and led an investigation of complaints from whistle-blowers about the department's former acting inspector general. His report, co-authored with Missouri Democrat Claire McCaskill, prompted DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson to suspend the former top internal investigator.

## VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Georgia's Johnny Isakson, 70, has stressed mental health needs of veterans and voted in favor of a bill to provide two-year funding for veterans' benefits, so veterans would continue to receive benefits even in a government shutdown. Aides say Isakson's priorities as chairman would include oversight of the new Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014, which was approved this past summer in response to a scandal over long wait times for veterans seeking health care and falsification of records to cover up delays. Isakson strongly supports a provision in the law that makes it easier for veterans to seek Department of Veterans Affairs-paid care from local doctors.



Isakson

## NATION

# Libyan charged in 1998 bombing of US embassy dies

By MAGGIE MICHAEL  
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Fifteen years after allegedly helping al-Qaida plot the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, Abu Anas al-Libi parked his car on a quiet street in Libya's capital.

Within moments, soldiers from the U.S. Army's elite Delta Force forced him at gunpoint into a van and sped away. They'd fly him to a naval ship in the Mediterranean Sea before finally bringing him to New York to stand trial on charges of helping kill 224 people, including a dozen Americans, and wounding more than 4,500.

But al-Libi, who pleaded innocent to the charges against him, wouldn't live to see his trial start Jan. 12. He died Friday night at a New York hospital of complications stemming from a recent liver surgery, his wife and authorities said Saturday. He was 50.

Al-Libi, once wanted by the FBI with a \$5 million bounty on his head, was chronically ill with hepatitis C when the soldiers shot him. His wife, asked to be identified as Um Abdullah, told The Associated Press that his experience only worsened his ailments.

"I accuse the American government of kidnapping, mistreating and killing an innocent man. He did nothing," Um Abdullah said.

In a federal court filing Saturday, U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said al-Libi died after being taken from New York's Metropolitan Correctional Center to a local hospital.

"Despite the care provided at the hospital, his condition deteriorated rapidly and [he] passed away," Bharara wrote.

Al-Libi, which means "of Libya" in Arabic, was his nom de guerre. Also known as Nazih Abdul-Hamed al-Ruqai, al-Libi was described in 2000 by U.S. prosecutors as sitting on a council

that approved terrorist operations for al-Qaida, which would become infamous worldwide a year later after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Before that, al-Qaida's Aug. 7, 1998, truck bombings at the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, were its deadliest assault. The bombs tore through the embassies and nearby buildings, killing 213 people and wounding



Al-Libi

some 4,500 in Kenya alone. The Tanzania attack, conducted minutes later, killed 11 people and wounded 85.

Al-Libi, believed to be a computer specialist for al-Qaida, conducted visual and photographic surveillance of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi in late 1993, the federal court indictment against him and others alleges. In 1994, he and other al-Qaida members researched alternate potential sites in Nairobi including the local office of the U.S. Agency for International Development, as well as "British, French and Israeli targets," according to the indictment.

Al-Libi said in court filings that he returned to Libya as dissent against dictator Moammar Gadhafi grew into an open revolt that led to the leader's downfall and killing in 2011. He said he "joined with forces of NATO and the United States" to replace Gadhafi, hoping to establish a "stable Islamic secular state."

In October 2013, the U.S. Army's Delta Force swooped into Tripoli and seized al-Libi after dawn prayers, said his brother, Nabih al-Ruqai.

Al-Libi's lawyer, Bernard Kleinman, argued that his client didn't plan the bombing.



PETER MORGAN/AP

The American and New York state and city flags fly at half-staff outside the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York last Sunday in honor of slain police officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu.

## Respect urged at NYC officer's wake

By MIKE BALSAMO  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — As thousands of mourners prepared to attend the wake and funeral of a second New York City police officer killed in an ambush shooting, police Commissioner William Bratton is urging the rank and file to refrain from making political statements.

"A hero's funeral is about grieving, not grievance," Bratton said in a memo to be read to all commanders at roll calls on Saturday, the day Officer Wenjian Liu will be remembered during a wake. "I issue no mandates, and I make no threats of discipline, but I remind you that when you don the uniform of this department, you are bound by the tradition, honor and decency that go with it."

Bratton's comments referred to hundreds of officers who turned their backs to TV monitors showing Mayor Bill de Blasio a week ago as he spoke at the funeral for the other slain officer, Rafael Ramos. That gesture mimicked

one made by police union officials outside a hospital two weeks ago when the officers were killed.

Union officials, who are negotiating a contract with the city, have said the gestures were made out

of frustration with the mayor. They say de Blasio helped foster an anti-police atmosphere by supporting demonstrations following the chokehold death of

an unarmed black man on Staten Island who resisted arrest.

Liu and Ramos were ambushed sitting in their patrol car on a Brooklyn street by Imaaiyl Brinsley, who had made references online to the killings of unarmed black men at the hands of white police officers, vowing to put "wings on pigs."

Investigators say Brinsley was an emotionally disturbed loner

who started off his rampage by shooting and wounding an ex-girlfriend in Baltimore. He later killed himself.

The police killings ramped up emotions in the already tense national debate over police conduct. Since Ramos and Liu were killed, police in New York have investigated at least 70 threats made against officers, and more than a dozen people have been arrested.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan and others have urged calm and asked all sides to tone down the rhetoric. Last week, the mayor met with police union leaders.

Liu's wake will be at the Aievoli Funeral Home in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn. His funeral is scheduled for Sunday, with a Chinese ceremony by Buddhist monks to be followed by a traditional police ceremony with eulogies led by a chaplain. Burial will follow at Cypress Hills Cemetery.

The officer, 32, had been on the police force seven years and had gotten married two months before he died.



Liu

## Suicide watch ignored; mentally ill inmate hangs himself in NY

By JAKE PEARSON  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A mentally ill inmate who hanged himself on New Year's Day in a Rikers Island jail was supposed to be placed on suicide watch, but it wasn't implemented, two city officials told The Associated Press on Friday.

A jail psychiatrist who saw Fabian Cruz on Wednesday at a clinic ordered that Cruz be transferred to a special observation unit in a different Rikers facility where he'd be placed under con-

stant watch, but Cruz told a guard at the clinic he didn't want to go and was transferred back to his jail cell, the officials said.

Letting Cruz go back to his cell was a violation of Department of Correction protocol because inmates don't get to decide where they're housed, said one of the officials. Both spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation into what happened.

The guard also was supposed to contact a supervising captain after the suicide watch was or-



Cruz

at the clinic has been placed on modified duty.

In October, city officials announced they'd secured a

dered but didn't, the official said.

Cruz, 35, was discovered Thursday evening and was pronounced dead by a jail doctor. The correction officer

\$400,000 federal grant to review suicides and other self-harm in jails to identify systemic breakdowns that caused them and to prevent more. That announcement followed a June report by the AP that found, based on city and state investigative documents, that in nine of the 11 inmate suicides since 2009, established protocols designed to prevent vulnerable inmates from hurting themselves weren't followed.

An autopsy confirmed the cause and manner of Cruz's death as suicide by hanging.

A Department of Correction spokesman said only that Cruz's death in the Robert N. Davoren Center was being investigated as a possible suicide.

Cruz had pleaded guilty to burglary and a criminal sexual act for abusing his girlfriend's teenage daughter starting when she was 14 years old, in November 2009, and continuing until October 2012, court records show.

He was awaiting sentencing Jan. 15 to five years in prison upstate and would have had to register as a sex offender, prosecutors said.

## NATION

# Girl, 7, survives Ky. plane accident

Child walks away from crash that killed 4 others

The Associated Press

EDDYVILLE, Ky. — A 7-year-old girl survived a plane crash in Kentucky that killed four people Friday night, and the disoriented little girl walked away from the wreckage and reported the crash to a local resident, authorities said.

The small Piper PA-34 reported engine trouble and lost contact with air traffic controllers as it was flying over the southwestern part of Kentucky about 5:55 p.m., the FAA said.

About a half hour later, a Lyon County resident called 911 and told dispatchers that a 7-year-old girl had walked to his home and said she had been involved in a plane crash, said Sgt. Dean Patterson, of the Kentucky State Police.

"This girl came out of the wreckage herself and found the closest residence and reported the plane crash," Patterson said. "It's a miracle in a sense that she survived it, but it's tragic that four others didn't."

The girl was in emotional distress and taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, Patterson said.

At that point, authorities launched a search for the crash site and also confirmed with the FAA that they had received a distress call.

About two hours later, authorities found the crash site in a heavily wooded area near Kentucky Lake, a popular tourist attraction in the state.

They discovered four bodies, including the pilot and the three passengers.

The FAA said the plane had taken off from Tallahassee Regional Airport in Florida, and was bound for Mount Vernon, Ill. Patterson said the girl indicated that the plane had left from Key West, Fla.

Patterson said in a statement that the victims were identified Marty Gutzler, 49; Kimberly Gutzler, 45; their daughter, Piper Gutzler, 9; and her cousin, Sierra Wilder, 14. All four were from Nashville, Ill. Police said the name of the 7-year-old passenger is being withheld at the request of family.

Patterson said it had been raining in the area for most of Friday. The cause of the crash was under investigation.



## Government guide for healthy eating may consider environment

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government issues dietary guidelines every five years to encourage Americans to eat healthier. This year's version may look at what is healthy for the environment, too.

A new focus on the environment would mean asking people to choose more fruits, vegetables, nuts, whole grains and other plant-based foods — possibly at the expense of meat.

The beef and agriculture industries are crying foul, saying an environmental agenda has no place in what has always been a practical blueprint for a healthy lifestyle.

An advisory panel to the Agriculture and Health and Human Services Departments has been discussing the idea of sustainability in public meetings, indicating that its recommendations, expected this month, may address the environment. The two departments will take those recommendations into account as they craft the final dietary guidelines, expected by the end of the year.

The guidelines are the basis for USDA's "My Plate" icon that replaced the well-known food pyramid in 2010 and is designed to help Americans with healthy eating. The guidelines will also be integrated into school lunch meal patterns and other federal eating programs.

A draft recommendation circulated by the advisory committee in December said a sustainable diet helps ensure food access for both the current population and future generations. A dietary pattern higher in plant-based foods and lower in animal-based foods is "more health promoting and is associated with lesser environmental impact than is the current average U.S. diet," the draft said.

That appears to take at least partial aim at the beef industry. A study by the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences last year said raising beef for the American dinner table is more harmful to the environment than other meat industries such as pork and chicken. The study said that compared with other popular animal proteins, beef produces more heat-trapping gases per calorie, puts out more water-polluting nitrogen, takes more water for irrigation and uses more land.

As the advisory committee has discussed the idea, doctors and academics on the panel have framed sustainability in terms of conserving food resources and also what are the healthiest foods. There is "compatibility and overlap" be-

tween what's good for health and good for the environment, the panel has said.

The meat industry has fought for years to ensure that the dietary guidelines do not call for eating less meat. The guidelines now recommend eating lean meats instead of reducing meat altogether, advice that the current advisory committee has debated. A draft discussed at the panel's Dec. 15 meeting says a healthy dietary pattern includes fewer "red and processed meats" than are currently consumed.

After that meeting, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association sent out a statement by doctor and cattle producer Richard Thorpe calling the committee biased and the draft meat recommendations absurd. He said lean beef has a role in healthy diets.

The American Meat Institute issued comments calling any attempt to take lean meat out of a healthy dietary pattern "stunning" and "arbitrary."

Objections are coming from Congress, too.

A massive year-end spending bill enacted last month noted the advisory committee's interest in the environment and directed Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack "to only include nutrition and dietary information, not extraneous factors" in final guidelines.

Congress often uses such non-binding directions to put a department on notice that lawmakers will push back if the executive branch moves forward.

Environmentalists are pushing the committee and the government to go the route being considered.

"We need to make sure our diets are in alignment with our natural resources and the need to reduce climate change," said Kari Hamerschlag of the advocacy group Friends of the Earth.

Michael Jacobson of the Center for Science in the Public Interest said the idea of broader guidelines isn't unprecedented. They have already been shaped to address physical activity and food safety, he said.

"You don't want to recommend a diet that is going to poison the planet," he said.

# Harry Reid injured in exercising mishap

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid was hospitalized Thursday night in Nevada after suffering broken ribs and face bones during a fall on exercise equipment at his Las Vegas home, his office said Friday.

"A piece of equipment Sen. Reid was using to exercise broke, causing him to fall and break a number of ribs and bones in his face," the office said in a statement. "His doctors expect a full recovery."



Reid

The top Democrat, who will transition to minority leader when the new Republican-controlled Congress convenes next week, had been working out at home when a resistance band broke, hitting him and causing the fall, an aide said.

Reid, 75, has round-the-clock Capitol Police protection as is standard for congressional leaders, and his security detail took him Thursday to nearby St. Rose Dominican Hospital.

He was later transferred to University Medical Center in Las Vegas, "where he was admitted overnight as a precaution," his spokesman said.

"Senator Reid will return to Washington this weekend and be in the office Tuesday as the Senate prepares to reconvene," the office said.

A few years ago, Reid suffered facial bruises and other injuries during a fall on his morning walk.

## 12 hurt in 35-vehicle pileups in NH whitout

ASHLAND, N.H. — New Hampshire State Police said a dozen people were injured in interstate pileups involving 35 vehicles amid whitout conditions from snow squalls.

Police said none of the injuries from Friday morning's crashes on Interstate 93 were life-threatening.

Police said one vehicle caught fire and was destroyed. The fire also damaged three other vehicles and cargo inside a tractor-trailer unit.

The crashes happened in and near Ashland, about 30 miles north of Concord.

Manchester District Fire Chief Al Poulin told WMUR-TV that there were many vehicles on the road driving faster than the 75 mph speed limit, including some apparently heading to ski resorts for the weekend.

From The Associated Press



## WORLD



ANTONIO P. TURRETTO RAMOS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Adam Garnett signals a Seahawk helicopter on the flight deck of USS Fort Worth. The littoral combat ship is currently conducting helicopter search and recovery operations as part of the Indonesian-led efforts to locate Air Asia Flight 8501.

# Debris appears to be that of jet

## Sonar detects 4 large objects on ocean floor in AirAsia wreckage hunt

The Associated Press

PANGKALAN BUN, Indonesia — Indonesian officials said Saturday that they were confident wreckage of AirAsia Flight 8501 had been located after sonar equipment detected four massive objects on the ocean floor.

The biggest piece, measuring 59 feet long and 18 feet wide, appeared to be part of the jet's body, said Henry Bambang Soelistyo, chief of the National Search and Rescue Agency.

Though strong currents and big surf have prevented divers from entering waters to get a visual of the suspected fuselage, officials are hopeful they will find many of the 162 passengers and crew still strapped in their seats inside.

So far, after nearly a week of

searching, only 30 bodies have been found floating in the choppy waters.

The Airbus A320 crashed Dec. 28, halfway into a two-hour flight from Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, to Singapore. Minutes before losing contact, the pilot told air traffic control that he was approaching threatening clouds, but was denied permission to climb to a higher altitude because of heavy air traffic.

While the plane's black boxes — the flight data and cockpit voice recorders — have yet to be located, the discovery of the wreckage, especially if it is largely intact, would greatly benefit the investigation.

The objects were discovered Friday and Saturday and a Geologic Survey vessel was used to

assess dimensions, Soelistyo said.

In addition to what appeared to be a significant part of the plane's body, chunks of debris found in the target search area measured up to 39 feet long.

Other suspected plane parts were seen scattered on beaches during an aerial survey, Soelistyo said.

Indonesian authorities announced the grounding of AirAsia flights from Surabaya to Singapore, with the Transport Ministry saying the airline did not have a permit to fly on Sundays. However, Singapore's Civil Aviation Authority said Saturday that from its end, the airline had been approved to fly the route daily.

AirAsia, which began operations in 2001, quickly becoming

one of the region's most popular low-cost carriers, said it was reviewing the suspension. The crash was the airline's first.

It remains unclear what caused the plane to plunge into the Java Sea, though bad weather appears to have been a factor, according to a 14-page report released by Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency.

Vessels involved in the search for debris included at least eight sophisticated navy ships from Singapore, Russia, Malaysia and the U.S. equipped with sonars for scouring the seabed to pinpoint the all-important black boxes and the wreckage.

The U.S. Navy said it was sending a second vessel, one of the newest in the fleet, to help in the search.

# Migrant smugglers set ships on autopilot

The Associated Press

ROME — Smugglers who bring migrants to Europe by sea appear to have adopted a new, more dangerous tactic: cramming hundreds of them onto a large cargo ship, setting it on an automated course to crash into the coast, and then abandoning the helm.

It happened twice this week in the span of three days, and both episodes could have ended in tragedy if the vessels had not been intercepted at sea.

In the latest such incident, the cargo ship *Erazedon* was stopped with about 450 migrants aboard after smugglers sent it speeding toward the coast in rough seas with no one in command. Italian authorities lowered engineers and electricians onto the wave-tossed ship by helicopter to secure it, and the Icelandic Coast Guard towed it to the Italian port of Corigliano late Friday.

Children and pregnant women were among the migrants, most of whom were believed to be from war-ravaged Syria, Italian Coast Guard Cmdr. Filippo Marini said. The Sierra Leone-flagged ship apparently set sail from Turkey, he said.

Some of the migrants, most of them young men, watched wearily from the railings of the ship as they waited to disembark early Saturday. Several were wrapped in blankets against the freezing temperatures.

Two days earlier, the *Blue Sky M*, a Moldovan-flagged cargo ship carrying about 800 migrants, was similarly abandoned by smugglers who locked the ship on automatic pilot and set it on a collision course for a stretch of Italy's southern coast, authorities said.

Despite strong winds and high waves, Coast Guard officers were lowered onto the ship's bridge and managed to regain control of the steering about a half-hour before it was due to strike the coast, Marini said.

In the past few years, there have been increasing cases of smugglers overturning motorized dinghies or fishing boats and then speeding off in motorboats, leaving many migrants to drown. In other cases, they just fled, leaving their passengers to fend for themselves.

Marini said the latest incidents appear to represent an even more dangerous tactic.

"Certainly it's very dangerous because a ship with no one on the command bridge is like a bomb that will strike up against the reefs," he said.

It was not clear in either case if the smugglers jumped ship. Italian navy said they were questioning passengers on the *Blue Sky* to see if any of the smugglers tried to save themselves off as migrants.

More than 170,000 migrants were intercepted or needed rescue by Italian navy, coast guard and air force patrols last year.

# Iran, 6 powers move closer to nuclear negotiations deal

The Associated Press

VIENNA — Iran and the United States have tentatively agreed on a formula that Washington hopes will reduce Tehran's ability to make nuclear arms by committing it to ship to Russia much of the material needed for such weapons, diplomats say.

In another sign of progress, the two diplomats told The Associated Press that negotiators at the December round of nuclear talks drew up for the first time a catalog outlining areas of potential accord and differing approaches to remaining disputes.

The diplomats said differences still dominate ahead of the next round of Iran-six power

talks on Jan. 15 in Geneva. But they suggested that even agreement to create a to-do list would have been difficult previously because of wide gaps between the sides.

Iran denies it wants nuclear arms, but it is negotiating with the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany on cuts to its atomic program in hope of ending crippling sanctions. The talks have been extended twice due to stubborn disagreements.

The main conflict is over uranium enrichment, which can create both reactor fuel and the fissile core of nuclear arms. In seeking to reduce Iran's bomb-making ability, the U.S. has proposed that Tehran export much of its

stockpile of enriched uranium — something the Islamic Republic has long said it would not do.

The diplomats said both sides in the talks are still arguing about how much of an enriched uranium stockpile to leave Iran. It now has enough for several bombs, and Washington wants substantial cuts below that level.

But the diplomats said the newly created catalog lists shipping out much of the material as tentatively agreed upon. The diplomats, who are familiar with the talks, spoke to the AP recently and demanded anonymity because they are not authorized to comment on the closed negotiations.

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## OPINION

# Fish farms key to sushi's survival

By JAMES GREIFF

**J**iro Ono, 89, widely considered the world's greatest sushi chef, has some dire news for aficionados of raw fish: The delicacy's best days may be behind us.

"The future is so bad," the owner of the three-Michelin-star-rated restaurant Sukiyabashi Jiro, who was the subject of the 2011 documentary "Jiro Dreams of Sushi," told CQ in December. "Even now I can't get the ingredients that I really want. I have a negative view of the future. It is getting harder to find fish of a decent quality."

The reason is overfishing, particularly of the endangered bluefin tuna, a sushi staple. With 90 percent of the world's fisheries deemed either maxed out or overexploited, we may be, as one conservationist put it, in the era of a "peak wild fish."

Whether the ocean apocalypse that Ono foresees comes to pass will depend on conservation efforts and international accords with spotty records of preventing overfishing. Yet fish aren't about to disappear from stores or restaurant menus. There just may be fewer wild fish hunted and hauled out of the seas. Farmed fish will pick up the slack.

As the oceanographer Jacques Cousteau said: "We must plant the sea and herd its animals using the sea as farmers instead of hunters. That is what civilization is all about — farming replacing hunting."

By some measures, this transformation is well under way: almost as much fish is produced via aquaculture as is caught at sea, according to a recent report by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization. For certain species of fish and seafood, almost all that is consumed is farm-raised. For example, about 90 percent of all shrimp eaten in the U.S. is farmed, as is almost all European sea bass, some times sold in the U.S. as branzino.

Perhaps salmon best sums up the promise, and drawbacks, of aquaculture. Once a luxury, it is almost as ubiquitous on restaurant menus and in supermarkets as steak or chicken, and 70 percent of the production comes from farms in Canada, Norway,



MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

**Dishes of shrimp tempura, sushi and miso soup are shown. About 90 percent of all shrimp eaten in the U.S. is farmed.**

Britain and the United States.

The economic case for salmon farming is undeniable. The fish is more efficient at converting feed into protein than cattle. It takes anywhere from 1.5 to 3 pounds of feed to produce a pound of salmon, whereas as much as a dozen pounds of feed is required to yield a pound of beef.

But the environmental case for salmon farming is more complicated and intensive production poses problems. Salmon are predators that require a diet made up largely of other fish, such as sardines, anchovies or herring, which are ground up and made into pellets that are fed to salmon in netted pens floating in coastal waters. These forage species also make up the largest share of the wild fish caught every year. Catch rates have been in decline, however, and there are doubts about whether today's harvests are sustainable. Research into feed that relies less on other fish and more on cereals and potatoes might help ease the demand for forage fish.

And, for the moment, large-scale farming at sea suffers from many of the flaws

of industrial farming on land (without, perhaps, the ethical qualms that attend raising warm-blooded animals in often-unhygienic conditions for human food).

Fish farms pack thousands or even millions of animals in close quarters under conditions that favor the transmission of infections from bacteria and parasites. Just like animals on terrestrial farms, fish in aquaculture pens often must be treated with antibiotics and parasiticides. And though they may be less obtrusive than industrial farms on land, fish farms are also a source of pollution from animal waste and unconsumed food falls to the sea bottom and decomposes.

Some in the industry hold out hope that genetically modified salmon that grow twice as fast as wild salmon may offer a way forward. The Food and Drug Administration has yet to approve commercial production of GM salmon amid objections by environmental groups and members of Congress.

Even if aquaculture offers answers, Jiro Ono is right about one thing: none of this will help with the depletion of prized wild species such as bluefin tuna, whose stocks have been depleted by more than 96 percent in some parts of the world. They have become so rare that they can fetch astronomical prices: last year a 500-pound tuna sold for almost \$1.8 million at a Tokyo seafood auction.

Sushi devotees shouldn't despair just yet. Researchers keep trying to farm bluefin from egg to maturity, though doing so poses challenges: As juveniles, bluefin have a larval stage and feed on other fish larvae and microscopic sea creatures that consume algae. When they are older, they must be fed other fish.

Let's hope that farm-raised tuna becomes commercially viable and that conservation efforts allow stocks to replenish. If not, there's the risk that the last wild bluefin tuna will be caught, sliced up and served up as toro, the most desirable of sushi ingredients. If that happens, sushi as we know it will never be the same.

James Greiff is an editor for Bloomberg View.

# There's still a role for US in Afghanistan

Los Angeles Times editorial

**A**fter 13 years of war, more than 2,300 dead U.S. troops and the replacement of the Taliban regime with an elected government, the United States last weekend declared a formal end to its combat mission in Afghanistan. That's an important symbol, but no one should interpret the declaration as the end of anything. Some 10,800 U.S. troops remain behind to train and support the still-young Afghan military. Surviving Taliban forces — which operate with relative impunity from the lawless border region of Pakistan — have been mounting fresh attacks, making it clear that the fighting will continue. The best that can be hoped for is that the Afghans take over the job of defending themselves and their government, allowing the U.S. presence to diminish.

Unfortunately, we saw in Iraq what can happen when a new government — and its new military — isn't quite ready to stand

on its own legs. Pro-Shiite policies by then-Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki exacerbated sectarian tensions with the nation's Sunni population, fanning mistrust and weakening the central government's authority. The Iraqi military then collapsed near some cities, turned tail — as the Islamic State insurgency expanded from the Syrian civil war into Sunni-heavy northwestern Iraq, where the extremists found some support among people who saw the barbaric invaders as preferable to the Iraqi government. Al-Maliki was replaced as prime minister by Haider al-Abadi, who has sought to be more inclusive, but the damage is done. President Barack Obama, while pledging not to send ground troops back to Iraq, has ordered U.S. air missions to try to rout the extremists.

Lesson learned, we hope. The U.S. is right to take precautions, including leaving behind a small force, to avoid a similar failure in Afghanistan, where, if anything, the history and regional divisions pose an even bigger challenge than in Iraq.

But there are caveats. Any time military force is deployed, there is the danger of mission creep, and that is certainly to be guarded against in Afghanistan. The U.S. led the coalition invasion in October 2001 to rout out Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network of terrorists, and to topple the Taliban regime that had given them cover. Bin Laden is dead, and although al-Qaida and the Taliban are gone from positions of power, they are not vanquished. Should the Afghans suffer defeats at their hands, the temptation to escalate the U.S. role will be present, but should be tempered by the recognition that the primary goals in the conflict have been met.

Still, the U.S. has a responsibility to continue helping Afghanistan move to a more independent and self-sustaining government. That's not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because it is in the United States' national interest. As the world was reminded in 2001, instability creates haven for terrorists. A stable Afghanistan makes for a safer world.

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## OPINION

## Path forward for Cuba, US still not certain

By WILLIAM M. LEGRANDE

**T**he historic agreement between Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro has opened what Obama calls "a new chapter" in relations between the United States and Cuba, but we are still on the first page. The rest of the chapter remains to be written. What comes next?

No one should expect things to change overnight. It took six years after President Richard Nixon's historic 1972 trip to China to re-establish normal diplomatic relations, and it was 15 more before Washington granted China most-favored-nation trade status.

Progress with Cuba will come faster, but key steps require congressional consent. The core of the U.S. economic embargo remains in place. Most U.S. exports are still prohibited, and Cuba cannot export anything to the United States, which limits Havana's ability to earn the hard currency needed to realize the full potential of bilateral trade. Obama promised to engage with Congress to lift the embargo, but trade sanctions were written into law by the 1996 Helms-Burton Act. With Republican majorities in both houses of Congress attacking Obama's foreign policy, repealing Helms-Burton will be far tougher than reaching agreement with Havana.

Even if Obama recovers his executive authority to negotiate the end of the embargo, Washington will seek compensation for nationalized U.S. property, and Cuba will seek compensation for damage done by the CIA's secret war and half a century of economic sanctions.

At Obama's direction, Secretary of State John Kerry is reviewing Cuba's inclusion on the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism. He will almost certainly conclude that Cuba should be removed, because there is no factual basis for its designation. But this requires no-



DESMOND BOYLAN/AP

Michel Salgado drives his 1957 Mercury Monterey along the Malecon in Havana, Cuba, on Dec. 21.

tification of Congress, giving Republican critics an opportunity to try to prevent Cuba's removal.

Leading the Republican chorus against the new Cuba policy is Sen. Marco Rubio, of Florida, who has sworn to block confirmation of Obama's yet-to-be named nominee as U.S. ambassador to Havana. Rubio's membership on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee — along with that of Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., another Cuban-American critic of Obama's policy — makes quick confirmation highly unlikely. Rubio and Menendez can keep the nomination bottled up in committee, but they cannot prevent Obama from re-establishing full diplomatic relations with Cuba. Article II of the Constitution vests that power exclusively with the president.

Republicans are also threaten-

ing to block Obama's policy by attaching Cuba amendments to must-pass appropriations bills. That strategy won't become available for almost a year, however, when the next appropriations bills come up. By then, the new relationship with Cuba may be so well-established that even Republicans would be loath to turn back the clock.

While debate over Cuba rages on Capitol Hill, Washington and Havana will continue their dialogue, taking up issues that the recent agreement did not resolve. The U.S. continues to fund covert "democracy promotion" programs in Cuba to stimulate opposition — programs that led to the arrest of Alan Gross, a U.S. Agency for International Development subcontractor recently released by Cuba after being imprisoned for five years. In his speech,

Obama signaled an end to U.S. efforts to destabilize the Cuban government, saying, "It does not serve America's interests, or the Cuban people, to try to push Cuba toward collapse." But senior U.S. officials are also saying that the democracy programs "are not going away." How will they be refocused in the new era of U.S.-Cuba rapprochement?

The U.S. still spends millions annually broadcasting TV and Radio Marti to Cuba, even though the television signal is effectively jammed and the radio has a diminishing audience. Cuba says the broadcasts violate its sovereignty and years ago offered to carry PBS and CNN on domestic television if TV and Radio Marti were halted. Could a similar deal be struck now?

While Washington and Havana are cooperating on the fight

against Ebola, the U.S. maintains a program that offers Cuban health workers abroad a fast track to U.S. residency if they defect. Disagreement over this program doomed U.S.-Cuban cooperation on rebuilding Haiti's health care system after the 2010 earthquake. Eliminating it will be on the Cuban agenda for future talks about deepening cooperation in response to global health emergencies.

Finally, the last agenda item will be Guantanamo. Cuba claims it as sovereign territory and wants the United States out. Washington insists on the validity of the 1934 treaty leasing the base to the U.S.

The litany of obstacles to be overcome before U.S.-Cuban relations are fully normalized should not detract from the enormity of the steps taken by Obama and Castro. They replaced a Cold War framework of animosity with a 21st-century policy of engagement and cooperation. This new chapter provides the means to manage issues where interests conflict, and to reach accord on issues where interests coincide. A series of such agreements should quickly follow — on counter-narcotics, Coast Guard search and rescue, disaster preparedness and response, and law enforcement cooperation against human trafficking.

In April at the Seventh Summit of the Americas in Panama, the two presidents will continue their dialogue face to face and take the next steps on the road to reconciliation. It is a long road, rife with curves and potholes that may slow progress and occasionally cause reversals. But finally, after 55 years of antagonism, the journey has begun.

William M. LeGrande is a professor of government at American University and author with Peter Kornbluh of the recent book "Back Channel to Cuba: The Hidden History of Negotiations Between Washington and Havana." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

## Not addressing problem by telling women to stay safe

By DARLENA CUNHA

**A**S I Drove slowly around the endless strip malls that line the main drag of my city, I heard it — a public service announcement that seemed meant for me.

"Ultimately you are responsible for your safety in parking lots. Walk deliberately with keys in hand. Carry mace. Don't look at your cellphone. Don't let yourself become a victim. Happy holidays and New Year from the Sheriff's Office."

On its face, it seems like a helpful formula, a proactive reminder to stay safe. But I heard something else. I heard, "This year, the police department would like a lot fewer assault and rape charges clogging up our system, ladies."

Unfair? Maybe. The office's message doesn't specify women. But it's implied — not just by my police department, but by society.

Women are inundated with tips and tricks about how to be less vulnerable. And we listen. We walk through dark parking lots with keys clenched pointy-side out.

We steer clear of shadowy alcoves. We carry mace.

Because even if some of us strongly disagree with the way the above message was communicated, we also don't want to be victims. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, women are more than four times more likely to be raped than men and almost three times as likely to be stalked.

If that's the case, what's so

wrong about helping women not become victims of these crimes?

The problem is not in the help, it's in the message.

When we hear public service announcements about drunken driving, we aren't told, "Stay off the streets from 1 a.m. to 3 a.m. on New Year's Day." We hear, "Don't drink and drive. Be responsible."

The weight of the crime is placed on the potential perpetrator. Everyone knows that it would be safer not to drive on New Year's Eve — just as every woman knows not to text while walking through a dark, secluded area.

But by telling women that we're ultimately responsible for our own safety, the police department is suggesting (unintentionally, I'm sure) that we're responsible for whether we get assaulted, which is just not true. While there are

things women can do to reduce their risk, whether they get assaulted is simply not up to them. It's up to the assailant.

Messages like the one from my county police department frame assault, rape and battery as the fault of the victim. They suggest that certain crimes not only can be prevented, but should be prevented — by those against which the crimes were committed.

It's a drop in the bucket, trying to change the language around these crimes. But it matters.

Next year, I would suggest a message more along the lines of this: "Remember this holiday season that unfortunately not everyone will be full of good will. If someone assaults, attacks or steals from you, we are here. We work the holidays to help our residents, but, of course, we would

rather not have to respond to such calls.

"So this season, if you're thinking about attacking or hurting someone, give yourself a gift and don't. For the rest, stay safe this year. Be aware of your surroundings, and keep your eyes and ears open at all times. And if something does happen, call us. Reporting crimes is an important way of trying to stop them."

It's a message that shines light on all three: the perpetrator, the victim and the law enforcement there to help.

Remember this holiday season, don't attack anyone. You will get caught.

Darlena Cunha is a former television producer turned stay-at-home mom to twin girls. She writes for The Washington Post, in which this column first appeared, and Time.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Toilet paper links man to attempted robbery

**PA** UNIONTOWN — Police said they matched a would-be pizza shop robber to a roll of toilet paper in his home.

Uniontown police said Eric Frey, 29, tried to rob Michael Maria's Pizza by handing an employee a note written on toilet paper that read: "I have a gun. Give me \$300."

Police arrived before Frey could leave because an employee hit a panic button.

Frey told officers he was forced to commit the robbery by a large, bearded man with a gun who accosted him in a nearby alley.

But police said a search of Frey's apartment wiped out that explanation: That's where they say they found a newly opened roll of toilet paper with the pen impression from Frey's note on an outer sheet.

## Driver crashes into house; dad, child hurt

**NH** LONDONDERRY — Police said a driver is in critical condition after crashing into a house in Londonderry, injuring a father and his 4-year-old daughter inside.

Firefighters told WMUR-TV that the car crashed into the kitchen Monday night and went airborne, flying over another car parked in the driveway before landing in the woods.

The father and daughter were treated at a hospital and released. A 6-year-old daughter also inside the kitchen was not hurt.

Authorities believe the driver, a man in his 60s, may have been suffering from a medical emergency.

## Letter carrier in prison for marijuana deliveries

**MD** GREENBELT — A former letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service in Maryland has been sentenced for delivering packages of marijuana to a conspirator on her route.

Devona Charley, 27, of Washington, was sentenced to a year in prison in federal court in Greenbelt on Monday.

According to her plea agreement, Charley provided Dominique Jones, 29, and others with addresses on her route. In a news release, the U.S. Attorney's Office said the conspirators shipped packages containing marijuana to those addresses and then Charley would hand them over to Jones at a predetermined location along the route.

Officials said Charley knew the packages contained marijuana, and she was paid \$350 per package.

Jones, of Oxon Hill, pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy and was sentenced to more than four years in prison.

## Firefighters' gay pride lawsuits thrown out

**RI** PROVIDENCE — The U.S. District Court in Providence has thrown out lawsuits brought by two Providence fire-

## THE CENSUS

# \$15K

The estimated value of a single bottle of wine served at the French Laundry in Napa Valley, Calif. A Christmas Day robbery at the stoned restaurant in Yountville, Calif., netted a king's collection of such fabulous wines, worth at least \$300,000. Most of the 76 bottles taken were from the Domaine de la Romanée Conti, including bottles from the fabled Burgundy estate's Romanée Conti vineyard, which are worth at least \$15,000 each. Most of the wines taken were highly collectible.



MEL EVANS/AP

## Taking the plunge

A man holds a sign as he runs with others in the cold Atlantic Ocean during the Sons of Ireland's annual New Year's Day Polar Bear Plunge on a sunny but frigid Thursday in Asbury Park, N.J.

fighters who said their constitutional rights were violated when they were ordered to drive a truck in a gay pride parade despite their religious objections.

The firefighters, Theodore Fabrizio and Stephen Deninno, argued that they are Roman Catholics and, therefore, do not support or condone homosexuality.

Justice William Robinson, writing for all five members of the high court this month, said the men appeared in the 2001 parade as public servants who were "relatively anonymous." He called it a legitimate work assignment.

## 12-year-old girl dies after tree falls on her

**FL** LAKELAND — Polk County deputies are investigating the death of a young girl who was reading a book in a hammock resting between two trees when one of the trees fell on her.

The Lakeland Ledger reported that Trinity Boothe, 12, died last Sunday. Her father, Jeffrey

Boothe, 48, tried to give his injured daughter CPR. When paramedics arrived, the girl was lying near the base of a large tree that had fallen over.

The hammock has been attached to the two trees for at least 10 years.

The newspaper reported that Boothe rolled the tree off of the girl and saw she had severe injuries to her skull and that she was unresponsive.

## Vacant, 4-story building collapses; no one hurt

**OH** CINCINNATI — Authorities said no one was hurt when a large portion of a vacant, four-story building collapsed in downtown Cincinnati.

A man who lives in an adjoining apartment building told The Cincinnati Enquirer that he initially thought a plane had hit the building when it crumbled at about 9:30 p.m. Saturday. Officials are unsure why the building collapsed, but the apartment dweller speculated that Prohibition-era

tunnels beneath the building might be a factor.

The newspaper reported that building inspectors on Sunday determined that surrounding buildings were safe.

The building was constructed in 1865 and is owned by Historic Limited Liability Co.

## Burglary suspect found sleeping in victim's bed

**PA** HOWARD — A woman has been jailed on charges she broke into a stranger's central Pennsylvania home after a night of drinking and was found by police in bed.

The Centre Daily Times reported that state police responded to an alarm at about 4:15 a.m. Sunday in Liberty Township, Centre County. That's where police say they found a broken window and Nicole Lynn Daugherty, 27, in the homeowner's bed. Nobody else was home at the time.

Police said the Bellefonte woman told them she had been drinking at a party hours earlier

but couldn't remember anything else — including how or why she got into the house.

## Cat accidentally sold with mattress set

**OR** PORTLAND — Camo is hiding no longer.

The Oregon cat accidentally sold with a mattress set is home after 10 days on his own.

Roy Dufek wrote in a statement that his girlfriend, Hayley Crews, caught Camo in a trap Saturday night after he was reportedly seen near the Hillsboro Airport west of Portland. Dufek sold his girlfriend's mattress set Dec. 17 without realizing the cat was likely in a favorite hiding spot: the box spring.

Unable to find Camo at the mattress buyer's home, Dufek took to social media for help tracking down the 5-year-old cat that likely scurried out of the box spring when the buyer, who lives near the airport, took it off the car roof.

From wire reports

## ASSOCIATED PRESS ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR



2014

*Nothing was  
hotter than*

# FROZEN

BY MARK KENNEDY  
The Associated Press

If you have children, or know someone who does, or just listened to one recently, the choice of Associated Press Entertainer of the Year won't come as much of a shock: It's "Frozen," and in 2014, we just couldn't let it go.

Although the animated film opened late in 2013, the story of Elsa, Anna, Olaf, Kristoff and Sven easily outpaced other vote-getters like "Sherlock" star Benedict Cumberbatch, TV guru Shonda Rimes, musicians Beyonce and Pharrell Williams, and even an entry for the culture's fixation on the female rear.

In 47 ballots submitted by members and subscribers of the AP, "Frozen" won 12 votes. Taylor Swift had 8. Matthew McConaughey and Jimmy Fallon were tied for third with 7 votes each. Voters were asked to consider who had the most influence on entertainment and culture in 2014.

"Frozen" has earned Disney more than \$1.27 billion at the box office worldwide, becoming the most successful animated movie of all time. Its signature song, "Let It Go," won an Oscar, and a national touring live version on ice has been a huge draw. The lines of girls wearing sparkly dresses waiting for a chance to see Elsa and Anna at Disney theme parks are staggering. "Frozen" was the most searched movie in 2014, according to Google.

"It's amazing," said Chris Buck, who co-directed and co-wrote the film with Jennifer Lee. "A year later, it's still crazy." Asked if they had managed to get their heads around the film's popularity, Lee replied: "I don't know if it's possible. I kind of hope it's not possible because

this is a really great feeling."

The film's gravitational pull supplanted Barbie as No. 1 on the holiday wish lists of girls, according to a survey by the National Retail Federation. Barbie had been the queen for 11 years in a row.

The Oscar-winning story about how the sisters Anna and Elsa overcome Elsa's terrible power to turn everything into ice and snow has songs by the husband-and-wife songwriting team Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez. It features the voices of Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel, Jonathan Groff, Josh Gad and Santino Fontana.

One Entertainer of the Year voter said the film had layers of magic: "'Frozen' has become nearly unavoidable. Before seeing the movie, I knew the names of each main character as well as the theme song. But it's more than that. Sisterhood is something so important to little girls whether they are an only child or have 10 siblings," wrote Jill Harry of The Derrick and The News-Herald of Oil City, Penn.

"The movie takes that theme, that feeling and perfectly matches it with the magic Disney is known to produce. The end result is a movie that has become an obsession. And now snowflake blue is the new black."

"Frozen" translated into cold, hard cash at the box office. Apple said the animated film's soundtrack was the year's top selling album on iTunes, and "Frozen" merchandise accounted for nine of the top 10 best-selling items in Disney stores. There were "Frozen" sing-alongs on Disney cruises to the Caribbean, a book series was published and some of the characters made it onto the fourth season of ABC fantasy-drama "Once Upon a Time."

"Frozen" is the eighth AP Entertainer of the Year. Past titleholders include Jennifer Lawrence, Adele, Lady Gaga, Tina Fey, Betty White, Taylor Swift and Stephen Colbert.

Elsa the Snow Queen, voiced by Broadway star Idina Menzel, seems to be everywhere these days. Though the movie "Frozen" was released in 2013, the story of Elsa, Anna, Olaf, Kristoff and Sven easily outpaced other vote-getters for 2014's Associated Press Entertainer of the Year.

DISNEY/AP



2014

## ASSOCIATED PRESS TOP 10 ALBUMS



**2.** **"2014 Forest Hills Drive," J. Cole:** The insanely talented rapper captures so much on his third album, tackling various topics from losing his virginity to growing up in Fayetteville, N.C., to contemporary rappers, who should take note. His rhymes are smart, and he is a powerful storyteller that, at times, echoes rap king Nas.



**3.** **"LP1," FKA twigs:** FKA twigs' ethereal and eerie album is heavenly. The English singer's soft vocals layered over weird beats make this 10-track set a must listen, thanks to addictive tracks like "Two Weeks," "Numbers" and "Lights On."



**4.** **"Sucker," Charli XCX:** Let's boom clap for Charli XCX and her top-notch album, "Sucker." The mix of rock and pop songs are confident and catchy, and prove that although Charli XCX was the side chick on songs like Iggy Azalea's "Fancy" and a Icona Pop's "I Love It," she's a real leading lady.



# 'Lonely' at the top

Sam Smith's emotional LP checks in at No. 1

**Sam Smith**  
DAN HALLMAN, INVISION/AP

**1.** **"In the Lonely Hour," Sam Smith:** Sam Smith's album was an emotional roller coaster — a ride you couldn't get off of even if you tried. The songs, anchored by his piercing voice, had the power to make you cry, smile, shiver and even dance. Tracks like the radio hits "Stay With Me" and "Leave Your Lover" are intense and emotional, making for an honest, beautiful album that soothes the soul. There can only be one reply when he sings, "Oh, won't you stay with me?" That would be a resounding "Yes."



**5.** **"Aquarius," Tinashé:** Tinashé, who is also part of the alternative R&B movement, delivered an album that moved the needle this year. Though she had a huge hit with the addictive "2 On," the singer proves she's much more than a one-hit wonder on "Aquarius." Her whispery vocals glide over the songs' beats so nicely you'll constantly hit repeat. "Just Like Vegas" is only one of the many standouts.



**7.** **"My Everything," Ariana Grande:** Ariana Grande has already launched four Top 10 hits from her second album, but there's so much more that bangs beyond "Bang Bang" on "My Everything." The powerful vocalist nails it with a cool blend of R&B and pop songs that's almost as good as her revering 2013 debut.



**9.** **"Do It Again," Robyn and RoxySopp:** Swedish singer Robyn and Norwegian duo RoxySopp 5-song dance EP is oh so good, and a tease. Full album please?



**8.** **"Montevallo," Sam Hunt:** Props to singer-songwriter Sam Hunt for blending country music with elements of R&B, electronica and hip-hop. It might sound wild, but it works on his debut album, mainly thanks to Hunt's swagger and sexy sing-talk vocal delivery. Sam Smith isn't the only Sam stealing hearts.



**10.** **"1000 Forms of Fear," Sia:** From "Chandelier" to "Elastic Heart" to "Eye of the Needle," Sia's latest album is just another laudable effort in her rich catalog, which is worth exploring if you've just discovered the gem this year.

— Mesfin Fekadu/The Associated Press



**6.** **"Evergreen," Broods:** The parents of brother and sister duo Broods should be proud. The New Zealand group's album, "Evergreen," is a winner with instrumentalist Caleb Nott shining on the eclectic, alternative production, giving Georgia Nott a platform to showcase her calming vocals, especially on "Killing You" and "Mother & Father."



## ASSOCIATED PRESS TOP 10 SONGS



2014

# PRETTY HURTS

Beyonce, Sia  
collaborate  
on top tune

BY MESFIN FEKADU/The Associated Press

**N**eed a new playlist? Check out the Associated Press' top songs of 2014 list. Heard them before? Then play them again.

## 1. 'Pretty Hurts,' Beyonce

Contemporary music's top singer and songwriter — Beyonce and Sia — join forces to create a song that is heavy, deeply felt, emotional — but most important, beautiful. "Pretty Hurts," with its winning accompanying music video, tackles the insecurities anyone and everyone feels, and Beyonce's rising vocals bring Sia's words to life, including lyrics like "it's the soul that needs surgery." I could cry.

## 2. 'Chandelier,' Sia

Being selfish is a good thing: Sia, who has written for Rihanna, Katy Perry and others, decided to keep "Chandelier" for herself, and thankfully so. The upbeat party anthem can get anyone in the right mood.

## 3. 'I'm Not the Only One,' Sam Smith

Yes, Sam Smith stole your heart with "Stay With Me," but "I'm Not the Only One" proves he will be around for a long time. His honest delivery, lyrically and vocally, makes him so irresistible it makes you wonder who was so foolish to have broken his heart.

## 4. 'All About That Bass,' Meghan Trainor

The year's most viral and colorful song still sounds good months after its release. "All About That Bass" is addictive and empowering, and it showcases bright newcomer Meghan Trainor, who we think won't fall into the trap of one-hit wonder status.

## 5. 'Bailando,' Enrique Iglesias featuring Sean Paul, Gente de Zona and Descemer Bueno

It doesn't matter if it's the Spanish or English version, Enrique Iglesias' "Bailando" is the track with the year's most swag. I wanna be contigo, and live contigo, and dance contigo!

## 6. 'Don't Tell 'Em,' Jeremih featuring YG

The other song of the year full of swagger is Jeremih's "Don't Tell 'Em," thanks to DJ Mustard's grungy but digestible production. Call him producer of the year: He also helmed Tinashe's "2 On," Big Sean's "I Don't" and Pergie's "L.A. Love (La La)," among other favorites.

## 7. 'Take Me to Church,' Hozier

Hozier's humane and emotional lyrics, matched with his commanding voice, make for a bluesy, soulful, indie rock treasure with "Take Me to Church," likely to win the Grammy Award for song of the year.

## 8. 'Day Drinking,' Little Big Town

"Why don't we do a little day drinking?" Little Big Town asks — rather sings — on their latest hit. And why not? It would feel even better doing so while listening to this summer anthem, highlighted by the foursome's awesome harmonies and that guitar solo.

## 9. 'Turn Down for What,' DJ Snake and Lil Jon

Do I really need to explain why this is so good?

## 10. 'Blank Space,' Taylor Swift

Kudos to 'Tay Tay for writing a song about the media's portrayal of her love life — or the multitude of them. It's creative, smart, funny and cool.

**Honorable** "Cool Kids," Echo-smith; "Rather Be," Clean Bandit featuring Jess Glynne; "i," Kendrick Lamar; "Boom Clap," Charli XCX; "Waves," Mr. Probz.

Taylor Swift



Beyonce  
AP photos



Sia



Meghan Trainor





## THE YEAR IN TELEVISION

# Small-screen superstars

These 13 programs showed how great TV can be

By MICHAEL HEWITT  
The Orange County Register

What's the next "Breaking Bad"?

That's the question I was asked most often in 2014, as viewers found themselves longing for the transcendent excellence of Walter White's last episodes.

There was no next "Breaking Bad," though, no show that could make a case for setting out the best season in television history.

But there was a surplus of excellent television this year, particularly for dramas. There was so much good stuff, in fact, that when it came time to name my 10 favorite series of 2014, I couldn't do it. There were simply too many strong shows.

My top 10 — no, make that 13:

### 1. 'The Walking Dead' (AMC)

There are so many factors to consider when assessing a show: acting, writing, cinematography, originality, intellectual and emotional impact. But in selecting my top series of the year, it came down to one rather basic question: Which was the hardest to watch a whole week to see again?

### 2. 'True Detective' (HBO)

An oddly ethereal murder mystery built around the most mismatched detective team: Woody Harrelson's character, a cop so stereotypical he seemed purchased at Costco; Matthew McConaughey's more philosopher than policeman, a spouter of lengthy musings on the nature of existence; both driven by an almost crippling sense of obligation. Were it not for that clunky ending, this would have been No. 1.

### 3. 'Fargo' (FX)

We were skeptical that a series based on the Coen brothers' idiosyncratic movie could work, especially given that the Coens were only marginally involved. We were wrong. "Fargo" the series was a revelation, a brilliant black comedy built around some sensational performances. Chief among those was Billy Bob Thornton as the bloodless assassin Lorne Malvo.

### 4. 'Mad Men' (AMC)

The penultimate season was the best in a couple of years, driven by the return of Don Draper to center stage. As Draper's fictional life unravels around him, he becomes more of a real person. We've lost hope for his salvation but gained more empathy for him.

### 5. 'The Americans' (FX)

The cold-war spy drama turned up the emotional dial in its second season, leaving the main characters with painful dilemmas to negotiate.

### 6. 'Vikings' (History)

What a fine drama this has become, foreign and exotic and yet universal at the same time. Like "The Walking Dead," "Vikings" mixes pure action with intellectual depth, wrestling with questions of politics, loyalty, religion and gender without missing a sword-fight.

### 7. 'Orange Is the New Black' (Netflix)

The second season of this hard-to-categorize comic drama/dramatic comedy was nearly as good as the first. Newcomer Lorraine Toussaint brought a dose of villainy that "Orange" badly needed.

### 8. 'Veep' (HBO)

"Modern Family," while still funny, ain't what it used to be, leaving "Veep" as TV's reigning comedy. Oddly apolitical for a show about politics, "Veep" stays away from issues and focuses on the dysfunction inside the D.C. Beltway. It is also loaded with the meanest, funniest insults you've ever heard.

### 9. 'The Affair' (Showtime)

What began as a "simple" story of marital infidelity gets darker and more involved each episode. The two narrators rarely agree on any details, giving viewers little to cling to but plenty to ponder.

### 10. 'The Missing' (Starz)

The mystery of a boy's disappearance is told in two time frames: his 2006 disappearance and the reopening of the case in 2014. The taut and surprising story rides on a current of dark emotional turmoil and regret.

### 11. 'The Roosevelts' (PBS)

What TV will always have over movies is time — in this case, 14 hours to tell the life stories of three of the most influential Americans of the first half of the 20th century: Theodore, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. Ken Burns' documentary was exhaustive and engrossing.

### 12. 'The Honorable Woman' (Sundance)

Or "Honourable," as it read in its British airing. The miniseries starred Maggie Gyllenhaal as a British-Israeli woman who becomes entangled in a murder/kidnap mystery so convoluted it makes the politics of the Middle East seem simple. Demanding, but worth it.

### 13. 'Legit' (FX)

Jim Jefferies writes truly outrageous comedy, but his bits have a way of making us laugh in spite of our better judgment. For all its inappropriateness, "Legit" celebrates friendship and the importance of human connection. Or rather it did, as it was canceled.

## Over and out: Flops, exits and endings

By FRAZIER MOORE  
The Associated Press

Along with its triumphs, the world of TV had its share of setbacks in 2014. Here's a sample:

**"How I Met Your Mother" concludes:** This long-running CBS sitcom met few viewers' expectations for a slam-bang finish. Its big reveal — naming the titular "your mother" after nine years of teasing — yielded a finale only slightly less tangled than the ending of "Lost." And even "Lost" resisted the temptation to include a blue French horn in its wrap-up.

**David Gregory exits "Meet the Press":** After months of speculation that Gregory was being ousted from the program he had hosted since 2008, NBC News announced in August he was toast. That was 18 months after the network signed him to a new contract it described as "a long-term commitment." And four months after NBC News' president defended him in a memo to "Meet the Press" staff expressing support "for David, now and into the future." His future was short-lived. He was out in a jiffy, with Chuck Todd his replacement.

**Ray Rice's elevator assault:** Over and over, viewers were force-fed the chilling video of Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice striking his then-fiancee and knocking her out. After it was released on a Monday in September, the video of Janay Palmer crumpling to the elevator floor was aired repeatedly by multiple networks. In one particular hour, the clip aired 37 times on ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC. But by Thursday, many of those networks vowed to give it a rest. Rice isn't necessarily off the air. Having lately appealed his indefinite suspension by the NFL, and won, he's eligible to play again in the NFL — and log more TV face time.

**"Utopia" unrealized:** Arriving with much fanfare, this Fox reality show stranded a group of strangers at a remote site where, during the year to follow, they were meant to build a more perfect society. But it turned out they couldn't even build a show that viewers would watch. Puny ratings forced its cancellation after just two months. For Fox (and the human race), "Utopia" swiftly proved to be a dream unfulfilled.

**"Peter Pan Live!"** It proposed a bold counter-theory for the space-time continuum. It argued for eternal youth in a realm only accessible by fairy dust-assisted human flight. Unfortunately, NBC's live production of this time-honored musical never managed to take off. Viewers had the feeling they had grown up and grown old by the end of its three hours struggling to get off the ground.

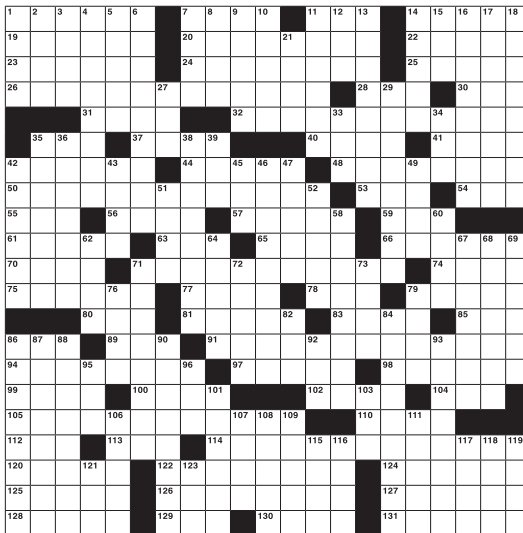


# CROSSWORD AND COMICS

## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

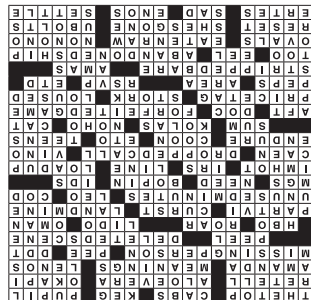
### FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS BY JOE KROZEL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Where it's lonely at, it's said
- 7 Semi parts
- 11 Powder holder
- 14 It shrinks in the light
- 19 Pass on, as stories
- 20 Modern juice
- 22 Striped beast
- 23 Mrs. King on TV's "Scarcecrow and Mrs. King"
- 24 Imports
- 25 Host Jay and family
- 26 Su\_\_\_ic
- 28 Political capital?
- 30 Antimalarial agent
- 31 Result of a burn
- 32 Ob\_\_\_ly
- 35 "Game of Thrones" airer
- 37 Din
- 40 Italian tourist destination
- 41 Sultanate next to an emirate
- 42 "Friday the 13th" sequel subtitled "Jason Lives"
- 43 Bad-tempered, in Shakespeare
- 48 Something banned by international treaty
- 50 \_\_\_t
- 53 Sign of summer
- 54 Fish-and-chips fish
- 55 Bygone sports cars
- 56 Call for
- 57 Arrive casually, informally
- 59 They may be checked for checks
- 61 Opposite of "Brr!"
- 63 Grp. with auditors
- 65 Checkout headcase
- 66 Pack, as a car ingredient
- 70 D-Day locale
- 71 Lo\_\_\_y
- 74 Suave, e.g.
- 75 Last
- 77 Masked "bandit"
- 78 W.W. II domain: Abbr.
- 79 They start in middle school
- 80 Ransom specification
- 81 Soda nuts
- 83 Manhattan neighborhood east of N.Y.U.
- 85 Anne Hathaway's persona in 2012's "The Dark Knight Rises"
- 86 Sternward
- 89 "I've got good news and bad news" speaker
- 91 Li\_\_\_nt
- 94 It's often face-down in a jewelry store
- 97 This relative
- 98 Messed (up)
- 99 Spices (up)
- 100 Part of town
- 102 Get back to (up)
- 104 Flight-board abbr.
- 105 Ca\_\_\_t
- 110 One of a Latin trio
- 112 It may follow you or me
- 113 It may be smoked in England
- 114 Wor\_\_\_er
- 120 Eggs, e.g.
- 122 Like oysters as an appetizer, often
- 124 "That's completely wrong, you idiot!"
- 125 Change, as a password
- 126 1976 hit for Hall & Oates
- 127 Curved fasteners
- 128 Some Deco works
- 129 "How pathetic"
- 130 Book of Mormon book
- 131 Not marry Mr. Right, say
- DOWN**
- 1 Ride around some parking lots
- 2 Half-
- 3 H's
- 4 Sawbucks
- 5 Song on a reunion tour, maybe
- 6 Virgin offering
- 7 Group of like-minded thinkers
- 8 Boat direction
- 9 Executive group
- 10 Pick up on
- 11 Relative of a pound
- 12 Energy unit
- 13 It's on the right when you're driving
- 14 Ends of the world
- 15 Lulu staple
- 16 Plague, e.g.
- 17 Apple picker's pick?
- 18 Didn't just talk
- 21 Instrument in Vermeer's "The Music Lesson"
- 27 Shine, in product names
- 29 "Modern Family" co-star
- 33 Preposition between two times
- 34 biz alternative
- 35 Fill-in-the-blanks activity
- 36 Like some cotton
- 38 Jefferson Airplane genre
- 39 Operate
- 42 Exfoliation tool
- 43 Let it all out
- 45 Chafe
- 46 E\_\_\_hen
- 47 Unenthusiastic
- 49 Birdbrain
- 51 Yom Kippur War politician
- 52 Partial translation of "Auld Lang Syne"
- 58 Ones who are never out of order?
- 60 Except
- 62 Duty
- 64 "Scary Movie," e.g.
- 67 Like many toy trucks
- 68 Anonymous
- 69 Up on things
- 71 Mailing to a record exec, once
- 72 Preppy wear
- 73 Hot goods
- 76 Like talking in a theater, e.g.
- 79 Flap
- 82 Destination between LAX and Sea-Tac
- 84 Some computer aids
- 86 Modern place to buy games
- 87 Stew about
- 88 Sirloin cut
- 90 Negligent
- 92 Drop the ball
- 93 "So much for that"
- 95 Hit TV series set in Las Vegas
- 96 High-school makeup test, for short
- 101 Tapered off
- 103 Airport shuttle, maybe
- 106 Rats and gnats
- 107 What you might get by breaking 4-Down
- 108 0-100, e.g.
- 109 Classic example of corporate malfeasance
- 111 Building block
- 115 "Hawaii Five-O" crime-fighter, informally
- 116 Isn't square, say
- 117 News anchor Lester
- 118 I.M.F. part: Abbr.
- 119 Ask
- 121 Rebel leader
- 123 "I knew it!"



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### RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



### GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at [gunstonstreet@yahoo.com](mailto:gunstonstreet@yahoo.com), and visit [gunstonstreet.com](http://gunstonstreet.com).

## OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM: A look back in photos on 13 years of war

View the exclusive photos from  
**STARS AND STRIPES**  
at [www.stripes.com/afghanphotos](http://www.stripes.com/afghanphotos)







2014

# MEMORABLE MOMENTS IN POP CULTURE

## Celebs get serious

Ice buckets, unexpected deaths, hacking scandals dominate news

By JOCELYN NOVECK  
The Associated Press

**J**ust for fun, let's try to picture the year in pop culture, all in one image.

We might begin with a singer oddly named Adele Dazeem, belting "Let It Go" from Disney's "Frozen." Suddenly a friend would pour a bucket of ice water over her head. Adele would immediately tweet the moment on her new iPhone 6, #icebucketchallenge, while Ellen DeGeneres would pop out and take a group selfie that would #BreaktheInternet.

Now let's get more serious. It's always a challenge to capture a year in pop culture, but we try nonetheless. Herewith, our annual, highly selective trip down memory lane:

### January

After a huge 2013, producer-rapper-singer **Pharrell Williams** gets an Oscar nomination for "Happy" on the "Despicable Me 2" soundtrack. A week later, he wins four Grammys, including album and record of the year for producing the funk-electronic anthem "Get Lucky." Happy, Lucky... the guy certainly picks apt song titles.

### February

**Jimmy Fallon** takes over for **Jay Leno** and immediately establishes himself as the new late-night king, with a younger, fresher vibe perfect for next-day YouTube viewing of bits like celebrity lip-synching duels. Kicking off an eventful year in the tech world, **Facebook** pays \$19 billion for **WhatsApp**, the popular mobile messaging service favored by teens and young adults — who see Facebook as something suitable for their parents.

### March

It's OSCAR time, and this year's show — the most-watching in a decade — gives us a slew of pop culture moments. Introducing **Idina Menzel**, **John Travolta** mangles her name in epic fashion, creating a new star: "the one and only Adele Dazeem." **Lupita Nyong'o** completes her rapid ascent to superstardom with a supporting-actress trophy for "12 Years a Slave," also the year's best picture. And speaking of superstars, **Ellen DeGeneres** takes that famous selfie with a gaggle of 'em, causing Twitter to crash for 20 minutes. **Gwyneth Paltrow** and **Chris Martin** "consciously uncouple."



Oh, and **President Barack Obama** pitches his health plan to young people via an unusual platform: **Zach Galifianakis'** comic Web series, "Between Two Ferns."

### April

Yet more epic shifts in late-night: **David Letterman** announces he'll retire in 2015. His replacement is Comedy Central star **Stephen Colbert**, adored by the younger demographic. **Kim Kardashian** and soon-to-be hubby **Kanye West** make the prestigious cover of *Vogue*, sparking existential angst among some fashionistas.

### May

But the real dream comes when **Kimye** ties the knot at a Renaissance fortress in Florence, Italy, following lavish pre-wedding festivities in France. **Angelina Jolie** makes a splash as "Maleficent," giving us a new take on the Disney character that's now more superheroine than villainess.

### June

It's World Cup time, and who says America doesn't love soccer? A hero is born: **Tim Howard**, the U.S. goalie, who even in a 2-1 defeat to Belgium makes a record-setting 16 saves. Now a social media darling, he inspires an Internet meme naming all the "Things Tim Howard Could Save." (Example: The dinosaurs from extinction.)



Howard

### July

A collective "Awwwww" ricochets 'round the world as Britain's photogenic royal couple, **William and Kate**, release photos of equally photogenic **Prince George** upon his first birthday. It was also time for the campy "Sharknado 2." A shark in the New York subway? No big deal. Manhattanites have seen rats that big.

For more on entertainment in 2014, as well as a look back in military and photography, go to [stripes.com/2014](http://stripes.com/2014)

### August

Celebs and regular folks alike take on the **ALS Ice Bucket Challenge**, generating many millions of dollars to fight the disease. **Brangelina** finally ties the knot. A sad note: **Robin Williams** dies, leaving a gaping hole in the cultural landscape.

### September

In this year of celebrity weddings, nothing is bigger than the lavish Venice festivities surrounding the nuptials of the bachelor who said he'd never marry again: **George Clooney**, to British human rights lawyer **Amal Alamuddin**. Big tech news: The new **iPhone 6** arrives, with its larger screen and inevitable prestige factor. The world loses deliciously tart-tongued **Joan Rivers**.



AP photos

Clooney and Alamuddin

### October

Actress **Jennifer Lawrence**, about to make a splash with the latest "Hunger Games" installment, speaks out on the hacking scandal that led to nude photos of her — intended for her boyfriend — being published on websites. "It is not a scandal. It is a sex crime," she says.

### November

**Kim Kardashian** poses nude for *Paper* magazine, and the focus on her posterior leads to all sorts of talk about "the year of the booty." **Taylor Swift** asks **Spotify** to stop streaming her music, setting up an intriguing standoff between the industry's most popular artist and its top music streaming service. On a much more serious note, **Bill Cosby** faces allegations that he drugged and sexually assaulted women decades ago.

### December

The devastating **Sony** hacking scandal rears its head, threatening to shelve "The Interview," but the movie is shown online and in limited release.

## Test your knowledge

**I**t wasn't easy keeping up with the Kardashians this year. **Kim** and **Kanye West** tied the knot; **Kris** and **Bruce Jenner** split; and **Kourtney** and **Khloe** invaded the Hamptons.

But they weren't the only celebs making headlines in 2014. At 53, **George Clooney** finally settled down, while **Mariah Carey** and **Nick Cannon** decided to call it a day.

What other celeb and pop-culture moments do you remember from this year? Time to test your knowledge.

—Daniel Bubbeo, Newsday

### 1. Which one of these people attended Kimye's wedding?

- a. Beyonce
- b. Rob Kardashian
- c. John Legend
- d. Lindsay Lohan

### 2. In what city did George Clooney and Amal Alamuddin tie the knot?

- a. Paris
- b. Venice, Italy
- c. Madrid
- d. London

### 3. What was written on the paper bag that Shia LaBeouf wore over his head at the Berlin Film Festival?

- a. "Do you know who I am?"
- b. "The unknown actor."
- c. "Kloasti barada niko."
- d. "I am not famous anymore."

### 4. Which of these celebs was not in Ellen DeGeneres' selfie at the Oscars?

- a. Helen Mirren
- b. Kevin Spacey
- c. Brad Pitt
- d. Meryl Streep

### 5. In the OWN docuseries "Lindsay," which of these incidents did not occur to Lindsay Lohan?

- a. She argued with her real estate broker about getting renter's liability insurance.
- b. She did a photo shoot for Elle Indonesia.
- c. Friends threw her a surprise birthday party.
- d. She met with a literary agent to discuss a book deal.

### 6. Which of these performers canceled concerts in 2014?

- a. Cher
- b. ZZ Top
- c. Kings of Leon
- d. All of the above

### 7. Which of these couples did not announce their split this year?

- a. Angie Harmon and Jason Sehorn
- b. Catherine Zeta-Jones and Michael Douglas
- c. Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin
- d. Tea Leoni and David Duchovny

### 8. What was the first new fall series to be canceled?

- a. "Gracepoint"
- b. "Red Band Society"
- c. "Selfie"
- d. "Manhattan Love Story"

### 9. After taking the Ice Bucket Challenge, Taylor Swift then challenged all but which one of these celebrities?

- a. Ed Sheeran
- b. Justin Bieber
- c. Selena Gomez
- d. Emma Stone

### 10. Which of these TV series did not kill off a major character in 2014?

- a. "The Good Wife"
- b. "Scandal"
- c. "Bones"
- d. "NCIS"

### 11. Justin Bieber made headlines this year for doing all but one of the following:

- a. Egging his neighbor's house
- b. Dyeing his hair platinum blond
- c. Winning a Grammy Award
- d. Getting charged with drunken driving in Miami

### 12. Which celebrity was not a victim of photo hacking this year?

- a. Jennifer Lawrence
- b. Kate Upton
- c. Ariana Grande
- d. Kelly Clarkson

### 13. James Franco did all of these things this year except for which one?

- a. Had a cameo in "The Amazing Spider-Man 2"
- b. Made his Broadway debut
- c. Penned a short story called "Bungelow 89"
- d. Shot an episode of "Naked and Afraid" with Seth Rogan

### 14. Which of these celebs was not a first-time mom this year?

- a. Gwen Stefani
- b. Scarlett Johansson
- c. Milla Kunis
- d. Zoe Saldana

### 15. All of these long-running TV series came to an end in 2014 except for which one?

- a. "Sons of Anarchy"
- b. "How I Met Your Mother"
- c. "Mad Men"
- d. "True Blood"

### 16. "Weird Al" Yankovic topped the album charts this summer with his 14th album, which featured parodies of all but which one of these songs?

- a. "Happy"
- b. "Fancy"
- c. "Royals"
- d. "Sing"

### 17. Who mangled Idina Menzel's name at the Academy Awards?

- a. Brad Pitt
- b. John Travolta
- c. James Franco
- d. Nicolas Cage

### 18. Which actor behaved oddly during a presentation honoring agent Shep Gordon at the Hollywood Film Awards?

- a. Johnny Depp
- b. John Travolta
- c. Nicolas Cage
- d. Ben Stiller

### 19. Characters from the hit movie "Frozen" appeared in a story line on which TV series?

- a. "Grimm"
- b. "The Simpsons"
- c. "Once Upon a Time"
- d. "The Vampire Diaries"

### 20. Which of these Wills did not voice a character in "The Lego Movie"?

- a. Will Arnett
- b. Will Forte
- c. Will Smith
- d. Will Ferrell

### ANSWERS:

- 1. b
- 2. c
- 3. c
- 4. d
- 5. c
- 6. d
- 7. d
- 8. d
- 9. c
- 10. d
- 11. c
- 12. d
- 13. c
- 14. d
- 15. a
- 16. d
- 17. c
- 18. c
- 19. b
- 20. c

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Explore **STARS AND STRIPES**® new feature section: Vietnam at 50.

With contributions from the men and women who were there, as well as voices from experts and our readers, we take a look back at the Vietnam War and the cultural changes that surrounded it. How the war was prosecuted, how it changed our military and foreign policy thinking, and how America viewed itself then and now. It's a radically new design for Stars and Stripes, and one you can help shape by sharing your thoughts and voices.

Visit online for more content and video—or to share your memories: [stripes.com/vietnam50](http://stripes.com/vietnam50)



## 'Selfie sticks' rule as holiday gift

"We basically couldn't keep

Hundreds of thousands of selfie

"I was ecstatic when I saw it," DiMauro said. "I had just overheard my daughter talking about how it was one of the latest hot

Various manufacturers make selfie sticks, technically called extendable monopods. Some of the products include Bluetooth remotes that trigger the camera. Others require the user to set a timer on their smartphone to take the shot. Many of the sticks can unfold as long as about 4 feet.

2000	1,198.80
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3-month bill .....	0.01
20-year bond .....	3.60

.....	2.69
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**MONDAY IN THE PACIFIC**

CHINA RUSSIA

Pacific Ocean

N. KOREA

Seoul 46/23

S. KOREA

Osan 47/26

Busan 56/42

Iwakuni 52/48

JAPAN

Misawa 39/30

Tokyo 55/47

Sasebo 58/52

Philippine Sea

Okinawa 69/61

Guam 86/79

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Portland, Maine	33	16	Snow	Siox City	4	4	Snow
Portlat, Ore	40	26	Rain	Sioux Falls	0	-8	Cir
Portland, Me	33	16	Snow	Spokane	31	23	Snow
Pueblo	57	32	Cir	Spokane	31	23	Snow
Providence	28	2	PCldy	Springfield, Ill	29	29	Snow
Providence, Durham	46	26	Rain	Springfield, Mo	30	30	Snow
Rain	6	-4	Cir	Syracuse	49	35	Rain
Reno	40	22	PCldy	Tallahassee	73	64	Rain
Reno	41	23	Cir	Tampa	73	64	Rain
Rochester	64	40	Rain	Tampa	39	35	Snow
Rochester	64	40	Rain	Toledo	39	35	Snow
Rochester	64	40	Rain	Toledo	39	35	Snow
Sacramento	58	37	PCldy	Tulsa	28	19	Cir
Sacramento	58	37	PCldy	Tulsa	28	19	Cir
St Petersburg	78	68	PCldy	Waco	44	34	PCldy
St Thomas	86	75	Cir	Washington, D.C.	64	41	Cir
St Thomas	86	75	Cir	Washington, D.C.	64	41	Cir
Salt Lake City	36	21	Cldy	Wichita	16	9	Cir
Salt Lake City	36	21	Cldy	Wichita	16	9	Cir
San Antonio	41	27	Cir	Wichita Falls	34	21	Cir
San Antonio	41	27	Cir	Wichita Falls	34	21	Cir
San Diego	66	45	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	60	41	Rain
San Francisco	60	45	PCldy	Yakima	33	25	Cldy
San Francisco	60	45	PCldy	Yakima	33	25	Cldy
Santa Fe	36	13	Cir	Yonkstown	47	32	Rain
Santa Fe	36	13	Cir	Yonkstown	47	32	Rain
Savannah	75	63	Rain				
Seattle	75	63	Rain				
Seattle	75	63	Rain				

**National temperature extremes**

Hi: 85, Fort Myers, Fla.  
 Ed: 84, Fort Myers, Fla.  
 Lo: 10, Fort Myers, Fla.  
 Ed: 10, Fort Myers, Fla.

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 3d Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.



## SPORTS BRIEFS/SKIING

## Briefly

## US women's soccer reveals camp roster

The Associated Press

U.S. women's national team coach Jill Ellis named 29 players to the roster for a 21-day training camp that starts Monday.

The team, preparing for the Women's World Cup later this year in Canada, is training in Carson, Calif., before heading overseas to play matches in France and England in February.

The roster includes all the players that the US team took to Brazil last month for the International Tournament of Brasilia, along with midfielders Shannon Boxx, Kristie Mewis and Allie Long, defender Rachel Van Hollebeke and goalkeeper Nicole Barnhart.

Also included is forward Alex Morgan, who was also on the Brasilia roster but unable to play because of an ankle injury she suffered in October during the CONCACAF women's championship.

The 29-player roster, by position:

**GOALKEEPERS (4):** Barnhart, Ashlyn Harris, Alyssa Naeher, Hope Solo.

**DEFENDERS (10):** Van Hollebeke, Lori Chalupny, Crystal Dunn, Whitney Engen, Julie Johnston, Meghan Klingenberg, Ali Krieger, Kelley O'Hara, Christie Rampone, Kelly Saeedman.

**MIDFIELDERS (10):** Boxx, Long, Mewis, Morgan, Brian, Tobin Heath, Lauren Holiday, Carli Lloyd, Samantha Mewis, Heather O'Reilly, Megan Rapinoe.

**FORWARDS (5):** Sydney Leroux, Morgan, Christen Press, Amy Rodriguez, Abby Wambach.

## Georgia AD plans extension for Richt

ATLANTA — Georgia defensive coordinator Jeremy Pruitt received a raise and contract extension on Friday, and athletic director Greg McGarity said he's working on a contract extension for football coach Mark Richt.

Pruitt received a raise from \$850,000 to \$1.3 million following his first season at Georgia. With a year added to his contract, his deal runs through the 2017 season.

No. 13 Bulldogs finished the 2014 season with a 10-3 record, including a 37-14 victory over No. 20 Louisville in the Belk Bowl on Tuesday night. Richt, 54, has three years remaining on a deal that paid him about \$3.2 million this season.

Richt is 136-48 in 14 seasons. Following the bowl win, he denied rumors he plans to retire.

## Highlight beats Armour in All-America Game

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Deondre Francois threw for 103 yards and a touchdown pass to Garrett Williams to lead Team Highlight to a 46-6 victory over Team Armour in the 2015 Under

Armour All-America Game on Friday.

Francois, from IMG Academy in Bradenton, Fla., is committed to Florida State. He was 4-for-4 with a 60-yard completion to George Campbell from East Lake (Fla.) High School, another FSU commitment.

Running back Ronald Jones II, of McKinney (Texas) High School, rushed for a 63-yard touchdown to give Team Highlight a 10-0 lead in the first quarter. He also committed to USC over Notre Dame before the game started. Daylon Charlot from Patterson (La.) High School had a 53-yard punt return to extend the lead to 24-0 in the first half.

Ohio State commit Eric Grover-Williams, from McKinley High School in Canton, Ohio, had a 47-yard punt return for a touchdown for Team Armour.

## Oilers trade Perron to Pens for Klinkhammer

PITTSBURGH — The Edmonton Oilers traded left wing David Perron to the Pittsburgh Penguins on Friday for center Rob Klinkhammer and a first-round pick in the 2015 NHL entry draft.

Perron, who spent his first six NHL seasons with St. Louis, has five goals and 14 assists in 38 games this season. The 26-year-old Canadian forward had a career-high 28 goals and 57 points last season. He is signed through the 2015-16 season and his contract averages \$3.8 million a year.

The 28-year-old Klinkhammer has four goals and two assists in 29 games this season with the Penguins and Phoenix. The Canadian has 20 goals and 19 assists in 139 career games.

## Hawks expand sale to include full ownership

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Hawks' search for new ownership continues to expand.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports the team's full ownership group now wants to sell.

It is the latest evolution in the process that began when majority owner Bruce Levenson first announced he would sell his share. Levenson's Washington partner, Ed Peskowitz, also agreed to sell his share, raising the share available to 50.1 percent and opening the door for a new majority owner.

Now the other owners, including Atlanta-based Michael Gearon Jr., also wish to sell, the paper reported.

Gearon referred to a confidentiality agreement when he declined comment to The Associated Press on Friday. A message was left seeking comment from Levenson.

Hawks CEO Steve Koonin had no comment, according to team spokesman Garin Narain.



BRIAN CASSELLA, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS

Bode Miller is still recovering from back surgery. The 37-year-old, two-time overall World Cup winner isn't sure if he'll race next month in the world championships after feeling discomfort during training.

## Miller unsure he'll race at world championships

By PAT GRAHAM  
The Associated Press

BEAVER CREEK, Colo. — Six-time Olympic skiing medalist Bode Miller said Friday he's unsure if he will be fully recovered in time to race at the world championships in Colorado next month after undergoing surgery on a herniated disk in his back.

Miller said he was squeezing in some giant slalom training on New Year's Day and had to stop because of pain in his back. The 37-year-old American had surgery to repair the disk on Nov. 17 and said it still feels like he's "balancing two pool balls on top of each other."

His plan is to keep training and then see how he feels after a downhill practice session in Wengen, Switzerland, on Jan. 13.

"If it's possible, I'm probably one of the people able to pull it off. Whether everything goes right, it's a matter of luck and good fortune and being smart about it."

Miller is running out of time, though, with the worlds right around the corner. The first men's race is the super-G on Feb. 4.

There have been plenty of encouraging signs, like a few weeks ago when he skied in Park City, Utah, and actually felt good.

"Took it real easy there, kind of worked into it," he said.

But the discomfort he felt on New Year's Day gives him cause for concern. He woke up

sore the next day, but went back out and got in some super-G runs, skiing "hard and fast," he said.

"The disk is probably out of the woods for the most part, in terms of a real serious chance of me re-rupturing it," he said. "But if everything locks down, you can't ski."

For the moment, Miller plans to keep training and try to race in Switzerland in two weeks. Should the training not go well, he will postpone his return to another race in Kitzbuehel, Austria, the following week.

His worst-case scenario is arriving at Beaver Creek for worlds and seeing how he feels. It's a tricky course he knows intimately, winning four of his 33 World Cup races at the venue.

Miller will leave the decision of whether he deserves a spot on the U.S. national team up to the coaching staff. It's a difficult choice, especially with skiers such as Steven Nyman and Travis Ganong having already captured World Cup events this season.

"I do have a good track record on this hill. (The coaches) have seen me come back from time away from snow and be able to ski really well with a minimal amount of training," Miller said. "At the same time, we have a strong team right now. They'd have an argument to say, 'We're going to put in the strongest team we have.'"

**Bode Miller**  
U.S. skier  
"They could name me to the team, though, and do some training runs. If I'm winning the training runs, then I could move forward."





# NBA

## Scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
Toronto	20	12	.727
Brooklyn	16	16	.500
Boston	17	15	.529
New York	5	23	.143
Philadelphia	12	19	.387

Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Atlanta	24	8	.750
Orlando	19	13	.594
Miami	14	18	.438
Charlotte	10	24	.294

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Chicago	20	10	.697
Cleveland	14	16	.576
Memphis	17	15	.529
Indiana	13	21	.382
Detroit	9	23	.281

### Western Conference

Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Memphis	24	8	.750
San Antonio	22	10	.688
New Orleans	20	12	.625
Portland	17	15	.529
Oklahoma City	17	15	.529
Utah	11	23	.323
Minnesota	28	16	.201

Northwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Golden State	26	5	.839
LA Clippers	22	11	.667
Phoenix	19	15	.559
Sacramento	18	16	.529
LA Lakers	10	23	.303

Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct
Golden State	26	5	.839
LA Clippers	22	11	.667
Phoenix	19	15	.559
Sacramento	18	16	.529
LA Lakers	10	23	.303

Thursday's games			
Chicago 125, Toronto 107			
Brooklyn 100, Orlando 98			
Dallas 119, Boston 107			
Detroit 97, New York 81			
New Orleans 111, Houston 83			
Oklahoma City 109, Washington 102			
Indiana 94, Milwaukee 88			
Phoenix 112, Philadelphia 96			
Atlanta 98, Utah 92			
Golden State 126, Toronto 105			
Memphis 109, LA Lakers 106			

Saturday's games			
Charlotte at Orlando			
Chicago at Chicago			
Miami at Houston			
Utah at Minnesota			
Washington at San Antonio			
Memphis at Denver			
Washington at Philadelphia			
LA Clippers at Philadelphia			
Tucker at Dallas			
Dallas at Cleveland			
Brooklyn at Miami			
LA Lakers at Detroit			
Milwaukee at New York			
Boston 5, Phoenix 1			
Indiana at LA Lakers			

Friday			
Suns 112, 76ers 96			
PHILADELPHIA	—	Covington 3-7 2-2 10	
Mbah 10-22 4-12, Len 4-10 2-6 0-4, D.Gracic 4-8 0-4 2-10, Harden 5-12 2-12 1-11, Moutieaux 4-6 9-10 4-10, Wright 10-19 4-28, Sims 6-7 4-4 4-4, 0-0 0-0, Warren 10-19 4-28, Sims 6-7 4-4 4-4, Alderim 0-1 0-0, Sampson 1-2 0-2 2-2, Tucker 3-7 6-15 25-96			

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### Cavaliers 91, Hornets 87

CLEVELAND	—	Miller 0-10 0-0, Love 9-15 6-10 27, Dellavedova 1-4 0-3, Walters 8-21 1-2 17, Marion 2-7 3-4 7, Hayward 0-0 0-0 0-0, Jones 0-0 0-0, Totals 32-87 17-30 91
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CHARLOTTE	—	Kidd-Gilchrist 5-11 2-5 12, Zeljko Rebrack 2-6 0-2 2, Walker 4-16 1-3 10, Henderson 6-11 2-4 2, Neal 5-16 0-0 11, Maxiell 1-4 0-10 8, Roberts 2-7 4-10, Hairston 3-5 0-8 8, Roberts 2-3 0-4, Totals 32-87 17-30 91
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CLEVELAND	—	Miller 0-10 0-0, Love 9-15 6-10 27, Dellavedova 1-4 0-3, Walters 8-21 1-2 17, Marion 2-7 3-4 7, Hayward 0-0 0-0 0-0, Jones 0-0 0-0, Totals 32-87 17-30 91
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CHARLOTTE	—	Kidd-Gilchrist 5-11 2-5 12, Zeljko Rebrack 2-6 0-2 2, Walker 4-16 1-3 10, Henderson 6-11 2-4 2, Neal 5-16 0-0 11, Maxiell 1-4 0-10 8, Roberts 2-7 4-10, Hairston 3-5 0-8 8, Roberts 2-3 0-4, Totals 32-87 17-30 91
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CLEVELAND	—	Miller 0-10 0-0, Love 9-15 6-10 27, Dellavedova 1-4 0-3, Walters 8-21 1-2 17, Marion 2-7 3-4 7, Hayward 0-0 0-0 0-0, Jones 0-0 0-0, Totals 32-87 17-30 91
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### Grizzlies 109, Lakers 106

MEMPHIS	—	Allen 2-9 1-2 5, Leuer 3-5 0-6, Gasol 7-13 4-14 18, Conley 5-12 6-19, Lee 5-9 2-2 14, Ponderaster 4-7 0-8, Koufos 4-7 1-2 9, Prince 4-7 3-13 23, Stokes 1-1 0-0 4, Carter 15-0 0-0, Udrih 6-8 4-14 16, Totals 42-21 31 109
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LA LAKERS	—	Johnson 4-8 0-9 9, Davis 7-9 6-20, Hill 1-6 2-5 3, Price 1-4 0-0 1, Bryant 6-14 1-15, Lin 9-14 2-20, Boozer 6-8 2-3 14, Young 5-10 3-4 14, Sacre 0-0 0-0, Ellington 3-5 1-1 7, Kelly 1-4 0-2 2, Totals 43-14 14 106
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LA LAKERS	—	Johnson
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## NBA/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## NBA roundup

## Durant, Thunder hold off Wizards

The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Kevin Durant is dominating, and he doesn't think he has found his groove just yet.

The reigning MVP scored 34 points to help the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Washington Wizards 109-102 on Friday night.

Durant was 12-for-18 from the field in just 32 minutes, including a 4-for-7 performance from three-point range. He scored 44 points in an overtime win over Phoenix on Wednesday night in his first game back after missing six straight with a sprained right ankle.

"I was out for a while, I watched the game and learned it a lot more, and just gotta keep it up," he said. "I ain't really did nothing I wanted to do yet, and I'm gonna keep going."

Durant scored 30 points in 19 minutes against Golden State on Dec. 18 before injuring the ankle. In the last three games he has played, including the Golden State game, he has scored 108 points on 35-for-54 shooting (648), including 15-for-24 from three-point range, in just 90 minutes.

His teammates just shrug their shoulders. They have come to expect extraordinary play from the four-time scoring champion who averaged 32 points last season.

"That's what he does," Thunder guard Russell Westbrook said. "Nobody's surprised. He's not surprising himself. He prepared himself well to get back to where he is, and back to where he left off."

Westbrook had 22 points and six assists for the Thunder (17-17), who reached .500 for the first time this season. Oklahoma City shot 53 percent from the field to win for the fourth time in five games.

Bradley Beal had 21 points, 10 rebounds and six assists for Washington, which has lost two in a row. Andre Miller added a season-high 15 points, and John Wall had 14 points and 12 assists, but

he made just 5 of 13 shots.

Beal made a three-pointer with just over a minute remaining to trim Oklahoma City's lead to 105-102. Washington had a chance to inch closer or tie, but Westbrook intercepted a pass by Wall that was intended for Beal. He missed the layup on the fast break, but Serge Ibaka was there to clean it up for a layup with 22.9 seconds to play.

**Warriors 126, Raptors 105:** Stephen Curry had 32 points and 12 assists, Draymond Green got his first career triple-double and host Golden State rolled past Toronto in a matchup of conference leaders.

**Hawks 98, Jazz 92:** Jeff Teague scored 25 points, and surging Atlanta picked up another victory by beating host Utah.

**Pelicans 111, Rockets 83:** Ryan Anderson scored 22 points and Tyreke Evans added 21, leading host New Orleans to the run-away win over Houston.

**Grizzlies 109, Lakers 106:** Mike Conley had 19 points and nine assists, Marc Gasol scored 18 points and visiting Memphis edged Los Angeles.

**Cavaliers 91, Hornets 87:** Kevin Love scored 27 points, Kyrie Irving had 23 and visiting Cleveland ended a three-game losing streak by beating Charlotte.

**Nets 100, Magic 98:** Mason Plumlee had 18 points and nine rebounds, and visiting Brooklyn earned its third straight victory by beating Orlando.

**Suns 112, 76ers 96:** Gerald Green and Markieff Morris each scored 21 points, and host Phoenix pulled away from Philadelphia in the fourth quarter.

**Pistons 97, Knicks 81:** Brandon Jennings scored 29 points, and visiting Detroit stretched its win streak to four games by beating New York.

**Pacers 94, Bucks 91:** C.J. Miles scored 22 points and Roy Hibbert had 18, leading balanced Indiana past host Milwaukee.



Jeff Chu/AP

California guard Tyrone Wallace, top, controls a loose ball over Washington guard Andrew Andrews during the second half of Friday's game in Berkeley, Calif.. California won 81-75.

## AP Men's Top 25 roundup

## Matthews propels Cal to upset of Washington

The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — Tyrone Wallace will always generate the attention of opposing defenses. Jordan Matthews got his turn, and knocked down key shots from all over the floor in California's biggest win yet under new coach Cuonzo Martin.

Matthews scored 31 points and hit three of his career-high five three-pointers in the second half and David Kravish added a career-best 21 points, leading the Golden Bears to an 81-75 upset of No. 21 Washington on Friday night in the Pac-12 opener for both schools.

After struggling to make shots in the first half, Cal (11-3, 1-0 Pac-12) pushed the tempo after halftime and capitalized on Washington's turnovers and shot selection.

"We did a way better job today than we have in the past few games of coming out fast," Kravish said. "We came out harder. Shots weren't falling that we would normally make but we were working through that."

Wallace wound up with 19 points, eight rebounds, four steals

and four assists while shooting 11-for-12 from the line for Cal, which concluded the non-conference schedule with at least 10 wins for the first time since also beginning the 2011-12 season 10-3. The Bears were 24 of 34 overall on free throws.

Kravish added 10 rebounds for Cal, which had lost consecutive games for the first time under Martin.

"We have to be sound defensively and make free throws. When you make free throws, it opens it up," Martin said. "My biggest concern going into a game like this was how are we going to score the ball? We stayed aggressive. Dave was engaged offensively from start to finish ... then Jordan shot the ball and shot it with confidence."

Washington (11-2, 0-1) shot 53.6 percent in the first half then 38.2 over the final 20 minutes. The Huskies hurt themselves with 12 turnovers and breakdowns on both ends that allowed Cal to establish a nice tempo and shoot 60.9 percent after halftime.

Nigel Williams-Goss had 19 points, eight rebounds and nine assists and Robert Upshaw added

16 points, eight boards and five blocks for Lorenzo Romar's Huskies, who lost their second straight and still must play a tough game at Stanford on Sunday in jeopardy of falling out of the Top-25 poll. Washington has dropped the last three against Cal.

Washington put its defensive energy into stopping Wallace, who was held to 4-for-20 and missed all four of his three-point attempts. But Matthews kept hitting the key shots.

**No. 10 Utah 79, Southern California 55:** Jordan Loveridge scored 14 points to help No. 10 Utah beat Southern California 79-55 on Friday night in the Pac-12 opener for both teams.

Delon Wright had 11 points and 10 assists, Brandon Taylor added 11 points and Utah (11-2) shot 57 percent and led by double digits most of the game.

Loveridge missed seven games after knee surgery, but the junior forward has returned to provide scoring punch to an offense that struggles to score at times. He made three three-pointers.

Malik Martin and Nikola Jovanovic each scored 14 points for the Trojans (8-5).



SUE OGROCK/AP

Oklahoma City forward Kevin Durant lies on the floor and screams after being fouled during the fourth quarter of Friday's game against Washington in Oklahoma City. The Thunder won 109-102.



## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## UCLA holds off Kansas St. in Alamo Bowl

## Wildcats unable to overcome 25-point halftime deficit

By TIM PRICE  
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Even with a 31-6 halftime lead, UCLA coach Jim Mora knew the Bruins had a lot of work to do to finish off Kansas State in the Alamo Bowl.

"We're playing the 11th-ranked team in the country, and it's not going to be easy," Mora said. "You know they're going to fight back. If they don't fight back, they don't deserve to be No. 11."

The No. 14 Bruins held on, beating the Wildcats 40-35 on Friday night.

Mora and Kansas State coach Bill Snyder had an awkward exchange on the field after the game. Apparently upset that Kansas State took a timeout and hit Bruins quarterback Brett Hundley as he knelt to down the ball on the final play, Mora quickly turned away from the 75-year-old Snyder after barely shaking hands, then went back and got into an animated chat.

"I will defend the safety of my players... forever," Mora tweeted.

The message was retweeted by many Bruins players.

Facing the large deficit at the half, Snyder bristled at the thought that TV broadcasters might say the same thing about his Wildcats that they did about Florida State in the Rose Bowl.

"We had a TV announcer indicate in another ballgame that a football team had quit, and that's the last thing in the world anybody wants to hear on national TV. I assure you," Snyder said. "I reminded our youngsters of it, that we weren't about to let somebody say that about us. And they didn't."

Kansas State (9-4) scored 22 of the first 25 points in the second half, cutting it to



ERIC GAY/AP

**UCLA players celebrate after beating Kansas State in the Alamo Bowl on Friday in San Antonio. The Bruins won 40-35.**

34-28 on quarterback Jake Waters' 1-yard run with 4:54 left.

Paul Perkins countered for UCLA (10-3) with a 67-yard run with 2:20 to go.

"That hole was huge. Anybody could have run through it," said Perkins, who ran for 194 yards on 20 carries. "And on the kick, I just wanted to secure the ball and get us out of here with the win."

The Wildcats weren't finished.

Waters threw a 29-yard touchdown pass

to Tyler Lockett with 1:21 left, but Perkins recovered the onside kick for UCLA and the Bruins ran out the clock.

"Our players didn't give in," Snyder said. "Fought back. It wasn't enough."

It's been a week of big comebacks at bowl games. Michigan State trailed Baylor by 20 in the fourth quarter at the Cotton Bowl and won 42-41. Earlier Friday, Houston scored 29 points in the fourth quarter to beat Pittsburgh 35-34 in the

Armed Forces Bowl.

Waters was 31 of 48 for 338 yards, but was sacked seven times — twice by Butkus Award winner Eric Kendricks — and threw two interceptions and lost a fumble.

Lockett had 13 catches for 164 yards for Kansas State.

Hundley ran for 96 yards and two touchdowns on 11 carries and passed for 136 yards. Mora has said Hundley is forgoing his senior season to enter the NFL Draft.

## Bowls roundup

# Houston rallies past Pitt in Armed Services Bowl

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Greg Ward threw three touchdown passes in the final 3:41 of the Armed Forces Bowl, two after Houston recovered onside kicks, and completed a winning two-point conversion in the Cougars' 35-34 victory over Pittsburgh on Friday.

Pitt (6-7) took a 31-6 lead on James Conner's touchdown run with 14 minutes left, but Houston (8-5) had the biggest comeback in an FBS game this season and matched the third-largest ever in a bowl game.

Ward threw an 8-yard TD pass to Deontay Greenberry, the Cougars recovered their first onside kick and Ward teamed with Demarcus Ayers on a 29-yard scoring play on fourth-and-13 with 1:58 left.

Houston's onside kick didn't go 10 yards on the rain-slickened field, but the ball was touched



SHARON ELLIARD/AP

**Pittsburgh defensive backs Avonte Maddox (14) and Reggie Mitchell (15) stop Houston running back Ryan Jackson during the first half of the Armed Forces Bowl on Friday in Fort Worth, Texas. Houston won 35-34.**

by the same Pitt defender who couldn't handle the first one and Houston running back Kenneth Farrow jumped on it at the Cougars' 43. Greenberry started the drive with a 38-yard catch, then on third-and-16 had a 25-yard touchdown catch with 59 seconds left. Interim coach David Gibbs opted for a win-or-lose two-point conversion try, and Greenberry made a leaping catch in the back corner of the end zone.

Ward was 15-for-24 for 274 yards, with 237 of those yards and all three TDs coming in the fourth quarter. He also ran for 92 yards. Farrow ran 22 times for 103 yards and two touchdowns.

### Taxslayer Bowl

**Tennessee 45, Iowa 28:** At Jacksonville, Fla., Joshua Dobbs accounted for three touchdowns, Jalen Hurd ran for two scores and the Volunteers beat the Hawkeyes for their first postseason victory since 2008.

Tennessee (7-6) scored on its first four possessions, leading 28-0 before Iowa (7-6) managed 70 yards.

Hurd, a freshman, finished with 122 yards on 16 carries, the most yards rushing for any Tennessee player in a bowl game since Travis Henry ran for 180 against Kansas State in the 2001 Cotton Bowl.

### Cactus Bowl

**Oklahoma State 30, Washington 22:** At Tempe, Ariz., Mason Rudolph threw for 299 yards and two touchdowns and Desmond Roland ran for 123 yards as the Cowboys held off the Huskies.

Oklahoma State (7-6) dominated Washington on both sides of the ball to take a 17-point half-time lead.

Washington (8-6) eventually found its rhythm after stagnating offensively in the first half, but couldn't overcome the early deficit to close out coach Chris Petersen's first season with a loss.

## NFL



JOHN SLEEZER/TNS

Denver Broncos defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio has been able to employ some more exotic defensive schemes, thanks to the versatility of third-year defensive back Omar Bolden. Bolden has also proven to be a special-teams ace, serving as the Broncos' primary kick returner.

## Omar: Broncos' Bolden a force on special teams

### FROM BACK PAGE

When his teammates were putting him on the back and the crowd was going crazy after he returned the second-half kickoff to the Oakland 30-yard line last week, Bolden was ...

"Ticked," he said. "I'm in front, that's supposed to be six."

After weaving his way past the first wave of tacklers thanks to a block by rookie Cody Latimer, Bolden was sprinting up the Raiders sideline when Sebastian Janikowski got a hand on him. That allowed Chance Casey to catch up and knock him out of bounds.

Two plays later, C.J. Anderson scored.

"Don't get me wrong, I'm excited that I made a big play," Bolden said, "but I'm just disappointed that it wasn't as big as I would have liked."

Bolden figures to have an impact in the playoffs either on special teams or from scrimmage, especially if safeties T.J. Ward (neck) and David Bruton Jr. (head) are still limited.

"I can remember being in a team meeting about midseason and we're separating the DB room, safeties and corners, and I hear Omar, 'Which room am I in this time?'" coach John Fox said. "He's just a guy who's a good football player. ... And he's always been a really good fourth-down player, and the return thing, we were juggling until we found the right combination and he's slipped into that role very well, too."

Fox said Bolden laid the foundation for Pro Bowl consider-

ation as a special teams ace next season.

For such a fast guy, Bolden sure has been patient.

His rookie year he had a 103-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in the preseason. But six weeks later, the Broncos grabbed Trindon Holliday off waivers and Bolden began bidding his time again.

He missed just one game in his NFL career and has carved out niches in the secondary and on special teams.

And he's thrilled to be the team's kick returner now. He first fell in love with the game as a youngster zipping past other kids with the ball in his hands and a head of steam, never one to let fear of injury slow him down.

"I feel like I'm running too fast that guys don't want to tackle me," Bolden said. "That's how I'd look at it. Because when I see somebody running fast, I'm like, 'Oh, that's going to hurt.' I'm moving too fast; most guys don't want that kind of collision, you know?"

The Broncos took a chance on Bolden in 2012, drafting him in the third round even though he missed all of 2011.

"The film we saw of him when he was healthy, he was very good," Fox said. "Coming off a knee injury and getting used to the NFL season took him a minute and now he's starting to flourish."

Bolden figures he has one more step to make, though.

"Pre-surgery, I wouldn't have been caught," he said. "It's getting there, though. It's about like 98, 97 percent. We're close."

# Eagles' Kelly takes on bigger personnel role

## GM Roseman promoted to VP

By ROB MAADDI  
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Before winning his first playoff game, Chip Kelly won a power struggle.

Kelly got control of the Philadelphia Eagles' player personnel department on Friday after Howie Roseman was promoted from general manager to executive vice president of football operations.

The shake-up ends speculation about Kelly's future in Philadelphia following a turbulent week that included the dismissal of vice president of player personnel Tom Gamble on Wednesday.

"It's most important that we find players that match what our coaches are seeking," owner Jeffrey Lurie said in a statement. "This is part of an all-encompassing vision that takes you from the scouting process all the way to on-field performance. Howie, Chip and (president) Don (Smolenski) are all united in their desire to win. Together, we decided this approach was the best course of action for the Philadelphia Eagles."

Kelly has led the Eagles to consecutive 10-6 seasons. He already had final say on the 53-man roster. Now he'll hire a new personnel executive who will answer directly to him.

"I am very confident about where we are headed as a team and as an organization," Kelly said. "I look forward to continue working with Jeffrey and Howie as well as the personnel department. This is not a one-man operation. It will truly take a team effort to acquire and develop the best football players and then put the best team on the field each week. It will take all of us working together."

The 39-year-old Roseman had been the youngest GM in the NFL and held the position for five seasons. He began his career with the Eagles as an unpaid intern in 2000.

"My No. 1 goal is to help bring a championship to this city and that will never change," Roseman said. "I believe this will solidify the trust we have all placed in Coach Kelly."

The Eagles won the NFC East in 2013, a year after finishing 4-12 under Andy Reid. They lost a playoff game at home to New Orleans. This year, they became only the third team since 1990 to miss the playoffs after a 9-3 start.

Lurie said after the season finale last Sunday that Roseman would return as GM. That was before Gamble was let go and reports of a rift between Roseman



YONG KIM/TNS

Philadelphia Eagles head coach Chip Kelly won an internal power struggle on Friday, gaining final say over player personnel after general manager Howie Roseman was promoted to vice president of football operations. Kelly has led the Eagles to consecutive 10-6 seasons, and already had final say on the 53-man roster. Now he'll hire a new personnel executive who will answer directly to him.

**'This is not a one-man operation. It will truly take a team effort to acquire and develop the best football players and then put the best team on the field each week. It will take all of us working together.'**

Chip Kelly

Philadelphia Eagles head coach, on Friday's front-office restructuring

and Kelly began circulating.

"After carefully listening and reflecting on the lengthy discussions that I had with our senior team, I changed my mind (about Roseman staying as GM)," Lurie said. "I have a very good relationship with Chip that continues to grow stronger and stronger. When we spoke, he was thoughtful, thorough and professional. There were no demands, no threats; quite the contrary, he was passionate, engaged and articulated a dynamic and clear vision on how this fully integrated approach will work. We look forward to seeing it come to life over time."

When Kelly left Oregon to join

the Eagles two years ago, he made it clear he wasn't interested in total control.

"I've heard questions that I want control over this, control over that," Kelly said on Jan. 17, 2013. "That has never been an issue, never is an issue for me. I'm a football coach. I'm not a general manager. I'm not a salary-cap guy. I coach football. I need people who can go out there and say, 'Hey this is what you want. These are the people.' And it's going to be a collaboration. We're all going to be on the same page. I've got no delusions of saying that I want all these different titles. I just want to coach football."

## NFL PLAYOFFS



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Dallas running back DeMarco Murray, top, pushes Washington cornerback Justin Rogers to the turf during the second half of Sunday's game in Landover, Md. The Cowboys host Detroit on Sunday.

# Cowboys begin playoffs riding four-game streak

By SCHUYLER DIXON  
The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Tony Romo took all but one snap for a regular-season finale that had little chance of meaning anything for the playoff-bound Dallas Cowboys.

DeMarco Murray got his 20th carry late in the fourth quarter with a 10-point lead, not long after Dez Bryant made his final catch of the day.

Sure enough, a 44-17 win over Washington didn't change Dallas' postseason position. Not that coach Jason Garrett cares.

"We have been playing well as a football team the last few weeks and that's certainly an important part of it," Garrett said. "But I think as much as anything else is to take advantage of an opportunity to get better as a football team. Guys embraced the opportunity to play, I think we saw that in the spirit and demeanor we played with."

The team that couldn't win big games in December went 4-0 this week, zooming past Philadelphia to win the NFC East and earning a first-round home game against Detroit (11-5) on Sunday.

Now the question is whether



Detroit Lions at Dallas Cowboys  
AFN-Sports  
10:30 p.m. Sunday CET

keeping to the routine over resting Romo's surgically repaired back will make a difference against the Lions, or if it matters that Murray missed a chance to ease up at the end of by far the NFL rushing leader's busiest season as a pro.

One thing has already broken the Cowboys' way.

They got a Sunday playoff slot — and extra day for Romo after even he admitted that the much shorter Thanksgiving week was a problem.

Needless to say, players were on board with Garrett's plan to play to win.

"I think everybody was serious and just to hear that come out of his mouth, it motivated us even more," Bryant said. "We know what we have to do and we did exactly what we wanted to do. We

just have to keep fighting, have to keep playing together."

Here are some tangible things that Sunday's dominating win did for Dallas:

The Cowboys are one of five teams that tied for the best record in the NFL at 12-4. They averaged more than 40 points per game in their December victories and won four straight by double digits. Dallas last did that in the first four games of 2007, finishing the season as the top seed in the NFC.

"This game's about momentum and how you go into the playoffs," tight end Jason Witten said. "We didn't want to come in here and get beat and then try to go into the playoffs and turn it on."

If nothing else, the Cowboys get ready for the Lions feeling like they're playing as well as any team in the NFL.

"I just think we're gelling," said Murray, who finished with 1,845 yards rushing, broke all-time NFL leader Emmitt Smith's franchise record from 19 years ago and tied for the league lead in touchdowns rushing with 13. "We're executing the pass game and running it well. I think we're playing good, situational football. Our defense is playing good, our specials teams is playing well."

## Key for Cincinnati is getting to Luck

By JOE KAY  
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Getting to the quarterback is always a priority in the playoffs. The Bengals have underlined it this week.

If Andrew Luck gets time to throw on Sunday, Cincinnati will likely head home one-and-done again.

The Bengals (10-5-1) managed only 20 sacks during the season, the fewest in the NFL. It's the second-fewest sacks the Bengals have managed during a 16-game season.

On Sunday night in Pittsburgh, Ben Roethlisberger had plenty of time to find open receivers during a 27-17 Steelers win that gave them the AFC North title and relegated Cincinnati to a wild-card berth.

The Bengals head to Indianapolis for a first-round game on Sunday that amounts to a rematch. The Bengals visited on Oct. 19 and got shut out for the first time in five years. Luck was sacked twice, but threw for 344 yards and two touchdowns in the Colts' 27-0 win.

Luck can't get that much time again.

"We have to play great — great — against the opposing quarterback as well," coach Marvin Lewis said.

The pass rush has been dreadful much of the season, which is a big surprise. Cincinnati finished third overall on defense last season and had 43 sacks. The Bengals lost end Michael Johnson — 3½ sacks — but returned most of the defense intact. Paul Guenther replaced Mike Zimmer, who left as coordinator to become the head coach in Minnesota.

Linebacker Vontaze Burfitt has missed most of the season with concussions and a knee injury that required surgery. The line hasn't gotten pressure consistently, limiting Guenther's options.

Cincinnati's defense finished 22nd overall in yards allowed, 20th against both the run and the pass.

The Bengals will be trying to



Cincinnati Bengals  
at Indianapolis Colts  
AFN-Sports  
7 p.m. Sunday CET

get to a quarterback who is hard to sack. The Colts allowed 29 sacks this season, the eighth-fewest in the league. During their game in October, Luck completed 27 of 42 passes without an interception.

Indianapolis piled up 506 yards, one of three times this season that the Bengals have allowed at least 500 yards in a game. The Colts led only 10-0 at halftime, and then pulled away against a defense that was on the field for nearly 40 minutes.

"Suppressing Andrew Luck is going to be kind of hard," safety Reggie Nelson said. "He always starts off kind of slow and the scary thing is, he can always get his team going. The key for us as a secondary is not giving up deep balls, and we've given up a couple of those the last couple of games."

Peyton Manning and Roethlisberger were able to complete long passes in the last two weeks, taking advantage of the lack of a pass rush.

"Obviously, if you get pressure on the quarterback, it helps," cornerback Terence Newman said. "But we have to be tight in coverage and defend their receivers. From the wide receiver standpoint to the tight ends to the backs, everybody in that (Colts) offense pretty much touches the ball."

The Bengals haven't won a playoff game since the 1990 season, a 23-year drought that ties for the sixth-longest in NFL history. They've been knocked out in the opening round each of the last three seasons.



DON WRIGHT/AP

Cincinnati free safety Reggie Nelson, left, runs after intercepting a pass intended for Pittsburgh wide receiver Lance Moore during the third quarter of Sunday's game in Pittsburgh. Nelson and the Bengals will have to sharp against Andrew Luck and the Colts.



## SPORTS



**Making his points**  
Rondo scores season-high 29 in  
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NFL

# Omar's coming

## 3rd-year DB blossoming under Broncos' Del Rio

By ARNIE STAPLETON  
The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo.

**D**enver defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio calls Omar Bolden the Broncos' Swiss Army knife. The third-year defensive back from Arizona State adds a dose of versatility to a defense packed with Pro Bowlers and gives Del Rio the ability to sprinkle in some exotic formations.

"We play him everywhere. He knows the nickel, the corner, the safety, the joker, the dime. He can play a lot of different spots for us," Del Rio said. "When you learn safety, you're forced to learn all those different positions and you have a great feel for how it all ties together. I see his confidence growing."

Not just on defense, either. Bolden has emerged as a special teams standout.

He led the team with a dozen special teams tackles and has emerged as the primary kickoff returner heading into the playoffs. His bursts of 77 and 76 yards the last two weeks boosted his season average to nearly 30 yards per return.

"The way he's playing on special teams right now is outstanding," Del Rio said. "The way he's preparing each week to play with great energy and being able to do different roles is very valuable for us."

You'd think Bolden would be, well, emboldened by such high praise. No. He insists he's not even at full strength yet following knee surgery that scuttled his senior season.

### Inside:

- Cowboys carry four-game win streak into playoffs, Page 31
- Bengals must get after Luck, Page 31
- Eagles grant Kelly control over player personnel, Page 30

Denver third-year defensive back Omar Bolden has been a revelation for the Broncos this season, adding a dose of versatility to a star-studded defense packed with Pro Bowlers, and giving defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio the ability to sprinkle in some exotic formations.

MICHAEL CONROY/AP

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**30 for 30: Luongo blanks Buffalo in Panthers' win** | NHL roundup, Page 26